

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

WORKINGS OF WILLINGHOOD.

No. XI.

SATISFACTION IN DUTY.

THE little village of Amwell, about two miles on the London side of Ware, is chiefly remarkable as the burial-place of Sir Hugh Middleton. The church is near to, and visible from, the great north road, and between them runs, or rather creeps, the New River, planned and executed by this princely merchant, chiefly at his own expense, and ultimately to the ruin of his own worldly prospects. Seated on the box of the mail, a friend of ours was once passing this interesting spot, when he ventured upon some remark, or inquiry, relating to the last resting-place of the illustrious dead. "Aye, Sir!" replied the coachman, with a twinkle of his eye, and making the language of his craft, as he whipped his wheel horses, the vehicle of his wit. "Aye, Sir! he lies nice and close to his work, don't he?"

We shall take the liberty of using these words, apart from the arch allusion which they contain, to illustrate a very important feature in the "workings of willinghood." We are anxious to point out how the principle is most certain of being well developed, when they who are acting it out are "close to their work"—in other words, we shall attempt to press upon the minds of our readers the thought that satisfaction in duty, independently of success, is the main source of moral power and spiritual progress.

Utter carelessness as to the practical issue of sincere efforts for the enlightenment and improvement of our fellow-men, is neither possible, nor desirable. To some extent, conduct must be prompted, guided, and sustained, by a rational expectation that it will tell somewhat, however little, upon the destiny of our race. The wish to project our life, our thoughts, principles, and influence, beyond the narrow span of present existence, is, perhaps, scarcely less natural, and infinitely more laudable, than the ambition of transmitting our name to a distant posterity. One may surely take pleasure in the belief, and draw some strength from it, that the impulse we are now communicating to mind will be reproducing and extending itself after we are gone—and that when all that is personal to us is forgotten, the nobler part of us—the moral emanations we are sending forth—what we have said, and what we have done—will continue in undying vitality, and will be mingling with, and modifying, and, peradventure, governing the thoughts and conclusions of those who shall come after us. We see no harm likely to arise from the indulgence of this pleasing and elevating hope—we can detect in it no infallible sign of human infirmity—and we are, assuredly, of opinion, that whatever accession of power to the inner man can be gained from such a source, is fairly available for all the disciples of willinghood.

Guarding ourselves from possible misapprehension by the limitation thus laid down, we are the more free to insist upon the importance of pursuing that course, in the maintenance and promulgation of the truths we have received, prescribed by views of present duty, rather than by prospects of success. The one motive puts us in harness "close to our work"—the other leaves so wide an interval between us and it, as to diminish, to no small extent, the purchase of our resolution, and to ensure an inconveniently frequent slackening of the traces.

"Sufficient for the day," according to the highest authority, "is the evil thereof"—sufficient, also, the obligations to be discharged. Why should we place our reward far ahead of us, in uncertain and remote contingencies, when we can have it always within immediate call? Why should we startle our motives, never exuberantly courageous in treading the path of self-sacrifice, by bidding them sum up the entire distance between us and our object? Where is the wisdom of surveying, at one view, the long chain of impediments, stretching far away into the future, over

which we must pass in order to reach our end? All this, however, we must do, if we are to fetch our motives to action, and our delight in our work, from probabilities of success. The order of our forces, thus disposed with reference to the issues of things, lays them open to the repeated incursions and interventions of guerilla discouragements. The vanguard of our hopes is too much in advance of the main-guard of our determination, and untoward events will oftentimes rush in to interrupt the line of communication between them. It is impossible, whilst success is made the measure of our obligation, or the main scope of our resolution, to keep our various forces "well in hand." Hence, the abrupt halts, the pell-mell retreats, and the signal failures, of so many who start with all colours flying, and amidst loud flourishing of trumpets. They set their reward "upon the hazard of a die;" and a few unlooked-for difficulties, by severing them from their hopes, hold both at their mercy.

Willinghood, in order to a steady development of its power, must set out on "a more excellent way." Happily, one is open to it. Satisfaction in present duty places and keeps it "close to its work." To discharge the obligations of the day within the day, leaving the morrow till it comes—to do with alacrity whatever Providence points out as best to be done now, and at once—to yield a ready submission to the promptings of conscience, in dealing with the affairs and relationships actually around one—to cope, step by step, with single difficulties, and which, taken as they come singly, are easily manageable—to look for moral enjoyment, as wise men look for health, in the regular exercise of all our powers—to be more solicitous to do, than to succeed in doing—to esteem being at one's post more honourable than shouting for victory—to ease our minds, without procrastination, of daily responsibilities—and to commit the whole disposal of tendencies, probabilities, and results to Him who presides over universal government, and who sees "the end from the beginning"—this is the proper path of willinghood, and, walking in it, it will accomplish all that is appointed for it. This, too, is the directest road to happiness. Nay! we underestimate the case. In this road happiness will be our familiar companion, and uninterrupted satisfaction will be uninterrupting strength.

Let it not be alleged that the course we have here indicated necessarily shuts out all forethought, all wise adaptation of the means to the end. It does nothing of the sort. Such assistance as men may derive from well-digested plans of action, which, however, we think a mechanical age immensely overrates, and which often turns out to be mistaken or imaginary, may be secured even by those who work most exclusively on the principle we have recommended. He whose main anxiety is to be in the right way, is just as likely to exercise his judgment in deciding upon the point, as he whose sole care it is to get at the end. It is one thing to look ahead that we may know whither we are going—it is another thing to look ahead to find motives for going at all. Peering into futurity is not amiss for the guidance of the understanding; but it is a perilous method for the determination of the will.

Popular forms of expression have done much to mislead us on this subject. "Such and such men," it is often remarked, "were far before their time." Aye! if the actual event be exclusively regarded—No! if we look at the necessity of their agency to bring about the event. "Before their time!" Is the morning star before its time, because it precedes the day? Is the aloe before its time, because many summers pass over it before its blossoms make their appearance? Is the architect before his time, because a generation or two must sink into the dust before the magnificent conceptions of his imagination can be embodied? Why, the men who are before their time are they who make after-times what they are. What if they "died, not having received the promise?" They found motive enough, and reward enough, in their work. Is it for those who have "entered upon their labours," and who reap what they sowed, to pronounce, by implication at least, their self-sacrificing efforts to have been a profound mistake? At this rate, Christianity is the greatest of all administrative blunders, and its heroes the most egregious of all fanatics—for when has it not been far in advance of its time, or when were they other than "men everywhere wondered at?"

Let the friends, then, of Christian willinghood, aim to keep themselves "close to their work." They are not responsible for events—why should they bind up their satisfaction with them? When shallow utili-

tarianism sneers at them for wasting their efforts upon impracticable objects, let conscience be prepared with the answer, "We are not committed to the achievement, but merely to the daily discharge of all duties in relation to the thing to be achieved. Our reward is within us. In living, we live. Linked with truth, we cannot be defrauded of our chosen portion, nor disappointed of our cherished hope."

'The stars shall fade—the sun himself grow dim with age, and nature sink in years; But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth, Unhurt, amidst the war of elements, The wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds.'

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. DEPUTATION TO SCOTLAND. EDINBURGH.

A public meeting of the Dissenters of Edinburgh was held on Monday evening week, in Mr. M'Gilchrist's church, Rose-street, for the purpose of hearing a deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association, consisting of Mr. Burnet, of Camberwell, London, and Mr. E. Miall, the editor of the *Nonconformist* newspaper. Bailie Duncan was called to the chair; and, in addition to the Chairman and the members of the deputation, we observed on the platform Drs. Brown and Ritchie, and Messrs. Bruce, J. R. Campbell, and Cooper, of Fala, ministers, Councillor Russell, Mr. C. Spence, S.S.C., Mr. Young, &c., &c. We are indebted for the subjoined abridged report of the proceedings to the *Scotsman* and *Scottish Herald* newspapers.

The Chairman briefly addressed the meeting in explanation of the object the deputation had in view, and trusted they would receive the sympathy and co-operation of the Dissenters of Scotland in promoting the Anti-state-church cause. They had for some years past suspended the public discussion of the voluntary question, but he thought that the time for repose was past.

We have gained all the good that was to be gained by allowing the Established Church and our friends of the Free Church to contend with one another, and in the contention to magnify the principle that we had supported—therefore now is the time for beginning again to work, the more especially when we hear that it is probable that Government, for the purpose of State control over the sister island, may endow the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland [applause]. I recollect that when the question of the Maynooth endowment was discussed in this city, and I was called upon to take a part in that discussion—having presided at the meeting—I considered it due to the cause of Dissent, with which I have been identified for some years—I considered it due to my own consistency on that question—to take up, as the chief and most stable ground on which I could rest any opposition to the proposal to endow Maynooth—the ground of the voluntary principle [applause]. I could not see how I could be justified in opposing that endowment while at the same time the Protestants of Ireland received State support, but upon the voluntary principle, which rejects all interference on the part of the State—which refuses to receive any countenance or support from the State; on that principle which I held I found myself to be safe, consistent, and well supported [applause].

The Chairman concluded, amidst much applause, by calling upon Mr. Burnet to address the meeting.

Mr. BURNET, who was received with much applause, said:—

We have not come to ask your help for England, but, like one division of a common family, we are coming to one another to say, let us work together—let us unite together; for, if we are divided, we are wrong [applause]. We come not about an English business, but a British business. We come for a British Association, and not for an English Association; and, consequently, we come as a deputation from one branch of the same family to another branch—to tell our kinsmen that they must engage with us in the same common business in which every member of the family is involved [applause]. How was the British Anti-state-church Association formed, that we come to represent? It was not formed by England—let this be clearly understood; it was not formed by Ireland; it was not formed by Scotland; but it was formed by the three kingdoms. Scotland had its representatives to countenance the formation of the Anti-state-church Association; and these representatives exercised, very properly, their right and authority, and had their share in the formation of that institution which we now bring before you. We are, therefore, coming to lay before you an institution which your own representatives had a share in forming; and, consequently, we are not intruding on you an English institution. It is a British institution, and as much yours as it is ours [applause]. Taking this view of the matter, we come before you upon a question with which you are as much conversant as we are; and, then, with regard to the time at which we have appeared, and with regard to the rigour of the season, we have just to say, that matters of State press upon us, and we could not wait in justice to you [cheers]. If we were to wait till the spring, then it might be too late. There are movements to be made in regard to the next session of Parliament, but would it be time to move then?—when the speech from the throne was made—when the movements of the session were indicated—

when Ministers were committed to the course they meant to pursue—when they had got individuals to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, in one or in both Houses of Parliament—when they had prepared their majorities to carry the address to the speech from the throne, and thus begun the work of the Parliamentary session. Therefore it is that amidst all the rigours of winter we have come to this country—knowing that the king's business requires haste we have come here regardless of the coldness of the weather, in the hope that we will be warned by you [applause]. Now, what is it that Ministers propose to do at the opening of the session? Publicly, they have not proposed to do anything; but privately, it is said that they propose to endow the Roman Catholic Church of Ireland, and to pay every priest and every bishop and archbishop in that community [hear]. Now, after all the agitation of the voluntary question in Scotland—after the disruption that has taken place in the Church of Scotland—and after the agitation in connexion with that question, are you prepared to allow any Government to say that we disregard all that has been said in Scotland; that we set at nought all your reasonings on the subject; that we are determined to disregard them all as mere specimens of harmless intellectual Scottish gladiatorialism; and that we shall go on and endow the Roman Catholic priests [applause]? Will Scotchmen submit to this? If they do, they are not what they once were. But what should induce them to submit to this? Nothing. Now, what will these men do in order to make them submit to this? Why, they will come for your votes, when asking for seats in Parliament, and they will tell you that they are glad to see you; and they will give you a shake of the hand, as warm as a statesman can give it, in order to seem a little partial to you, but in reality to stultify your intellect [a laugh]. They will give you vain promises; that is to say, they will give you words which, like all statesmen's words, are intended to conceal thoughts [applause]. They will make you imagine that you are some great man, but they will turn you into a little man. They will say that the reporters, if you bring their speeches against them, have misreported them; they will say that that is not what they said, and, because the English language has some equivoces about it, they will take advantage of that circumstance, and try to throw themselves on words which will best suit the object which they have before them [laughter and applause]. Now, if I am to look to these gentlemen, and to understand what they mean by their speeches in both houses of Parliament—and I refer not merely to reported speeches, but to speeches which I have heard from them myself—if we refer, I say, to these speeches, we will find that they amount to this—that it is but fair, when a certain class of the community is endowed for a particular purpose by the Government, that other classes, professing similar purposes, should also be endowed; that, as some Protestants are endowed for religious purposes, so Roman Catholics should be endowed for religious purposes also. This is the argument which these gentlemen hold; and I think it, on the whole, to be a sound one [hear]. If, however, they proceed further, and draw this inference from the argument, that it is fair to endow one particular class, then, I say, if one is endowed, that all have a right to be endowed [applause]. But, if we come to inquire whether any ought to be endowed, then I say, No [applause]. So soon, according to their own statements, as they find that the public are willing that they should endow all, they will be prepared to do it; and therefore it is evident, if the public are silent when they intend to endow some, that they will proceed directly to their plan of Irish Roman Catholic endowment [hear]. What are these men to think of you? They say, we have given them the hint, but they are so heavy and so dull that they will not take a hint. Therefore, let them know that we do take a hint; we understand that you have not given notice of it for next session, lest the voice of the nation should rise against you; but the voice of the nation will rise before you have given notice, and therefore we enter on the struggle just now with the Minister of the day, and say that no minister shall carry this [applause]. Now, in what way are we to meet this proposal? I will not call it a proposal, but a design; for if we were to call it a proposal, they would say that it was not a proposal [hear]. In what way are we to meet them? If you say that they shall not endow the Roman Catholic priesthood of Ireland, they will say that the Catholics are as much British subjects as you are, and can any one deny, if they have a common interest in the country, that they have not a common right to be endowed? Then if you say, that you oppose the endowment of the Roman Catholics because they hold error, what do you do? Why, you make the Ministers of the day judges of truth and error. You make an inquisitorial body of them to sit in judgment on the doctrines taught in this country, and to tell you what is truth and what is error. If you choose to extend the illustration further, you make the Imperial Parliament the judges of what is true and what is false religion; and more incompetent judges, I believe, you could not find [“hear,” and a laugh]. If the Church of England were put down in Ireland, there would be little chance of continuing that Church in England. This would be a further and still greater blow to state patronage and state influence. There is an aristocracy attached to the church, of which the state can make an effective use; and therefore the state finds that it would suffer a serious loss by destroying the establishments of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Hence it is thought that by endowing the Catholic priests, all this machinery may not be touched [applause]. The Church of England in Ireland is, of course, exposed to much more serious danger than that church is in England. A great number of the people of England will be found attached—I will not say blindly attached—to that church; but in Ireland the great mass of the people are Roman Catholics; and consequently, under these circumstances, the Church of England in Ireland is more exposed to peril than the Church of England in England. This concession, therefore, was intended to prop up the Irish Church, as had been many other previous concessions. It was found necessary to give up the church rates in that country in consequence of the agitation which was raised against them; and when a cry was got up about the immense supply of bishops to the small number of the people, the Government came forward with a measure to do away with ten of the bishops. All this was done to buttress the Church of England in Ireland [applause]. Now, the only way to meet the present intention of paying the Roman Catholic priesthood is the way which the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noe proposes. He is, from conviction, a determined adherent of the Established Church; and last year he published a pamphlet, and in that pamphlet, which is in the shape of a letter, addressed to the present Bishop of Cashel, he calls on his brethren of the Church of England in Ireland to give up all endowments, and to become a Voluntary Church, in order to prevent the endowment of Popery. He sees no other way in which the endowment of Popery can be prevented. I freely agree with him. I see no other way in which the endowment of Popery in Ireland is to be prevented, but by making the Church of England a voluntary church [applause]. Mr. Miall, however, does not propose to abolish it in England. He sees that a great mass of the Irish are Roman Catholics, and likely to be endowed; and therefore

he will sacrifice the Church of England in Ireland. But he sees the Church of England strong in England, and therefore he will not put it down. His reasoning, consequently, does not proceed on principle, but on circumstances. Now, we would proceed upon principle, instead of circumstances, and not wait till we saw the danger arise. Why not take up the principle at once, and put down all religious establishments? Establish the principle of a voluntary church, and then no danger can arise from Government interference. The Government themselves will be relieved from many a difficulty as to what will be for the best; and although they do not think it, they will find that they have made a good exchange of their patronage for their liberty, when all churches are separated from dependence on the State, and seek no counsel or aid from it [cheers]. This is the only way by which the nation can prevent the endowment of Popery in Ireland. I know that some will say, Why may not all denominations have a little assistance from the State? I would say, No. I would take my stand, like the dog in the manger, and would not eat the oats myself, nor let others eat them [applause]. I know that some will say in Scotland, that we are fully enlightened on the voluntary question; we understand it well enough; and that there is no need of your coming from the south to give us lessons on that principle. Now, we in the south are always ready to take lessons from the people in the north; but I would take leave to say, if you understand the principle, and if it is a good principle—if the wedge has a keen edge, if it is weighty in the shoulders, and strong in the back—why do you not use it? A wedge is a mechanical instrument, and depends upon its being struck; therefore, we would have you to go on hammer, hammering at the wedge until the Church was separated from the State [applause]. Now, the Association which we have come here to represent was formed for the purpose of hammering in the wedge. We come to tell you to work out the voluntary principle; but how is it to be worked out without money? If you do not give us money to work it, you have another choice before you; and perhaps you would rather prefer paying the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland. But if you give assistance to the Anti-state-church Association, we will prevent that endowment. If you do not, you will have to pay, and your children after you. You will surely, therefore, not be “penny wise and pound foolish” [applause].

Mr. E. MIALL, who was enthusiastically received, said:—

We wish most earnestly to have one combined, united, imperial movement—a movement of aggression—against all establishments of religion. We wish not to refer to the past, but to the future; and we have had sufficient indications, since we have been in the land of Scots, that you will not be unwilling to unite your hands with ours, and your organisations with our organisations, in order to secure the accomplishment of the object upon which the hearts of the Voluntaries on this side of the Tweed are set [hear, hear]. We believe that our mission will be successful in accomplishing this most desirable result, from several considerations which present themselves to our minds, and which we are most anxious to present, in all their force, to yours. We would point you, first of all, to the special circumstances which mark our times, and to mark the relation in which you, as Voluntaries, stand toward those ecclesiastical organisations rising up around you. Whatever may have been the case in reference to the past, we believe that you intend, from henceforward, in a spirit of sincere kindness, friendship, and Christian charity, to go before your Free Church friends, and to enlighten them thoroughly respecting that principle of which they seem to know so much and so well in practice [applause]. It has been whispered in the south, and you will be aware whether the truth has been communicated—it has been whispered that, notwithstanding that the great leader of the disruption, even when in the very act of going forth from the Church of the State, had flung defiance in the face of the Voluntary principle; and, notwithstanding that many of the principal leaders of that movement have so far committed themselves in the struggle to the Establishment principle, as to be unable to look on Voluntaryism without palpable blinking—it has yet been whispered to us that a considerable portion of the laity in the Free Church have had such full experience of the efficiency of the working of the Voluntary principle, that they may be inclined, perchance not all at once, but gradually, to take part in a movement which has for its object the destruction of a residuary establishment [applause]. We have been told that they are not very apt at catching the distinction drawn with so much ingenuity between the Voluntary system and the Voluntary principle [hear]. We are informed that they seem very generally to believe that, where a system gives tokens of being full of life, it must be pervaded by some corresponding principle; and we hear, moreover, that they think it somewhat ungracious to smite the hand which gives them sustenance—and that, reflecting on the language of the Bard of Avon, they “feel ingratitudo is not as though this mouth should tear this hand for lifting food to it” [applause].

Mr. Miall then went on to show that they should guard against being taken by surprise at any future period, so that, if any new measure should be introduced for increasing our ecclesiastical burdens, we might be prepared effectively and successfully to resist them. For this purpose, the only method was to aim at the entire separation of the Church from the State. The time was come for combined and vigorous exertions; for depend upon it, that until it was demonstrated to Government that the Dissenters were thoroughly in earnest, they would laugh at all opposition.

Mr. J. R. CAMPBELL, minister, after a few remarks, showing the necessity and importance of uniting and co-operating in the movement so well and so ably supported by Messrs. Burnet and Miall, proposed a resolution to the effect that a committee should be appointed to confer with the different organisations of voluntaries in Edinburgh, and to adopt such measures for promoting the objects of the British Anti-state-church Association as might appear to them most likely to secure its efficiency.

Mr. CHARLES SPENCE, S.S.C., seconded the motion, which was agreed to amidst acclamation.

After prayer by Dr. Brown, the meeting broke up.

SECOND MEETING.

A second meeting of Dissenters was held on Tuesday night, in Dr. Peddie's Church, Bristo-street, for the purpose of hearing addresses from the deputation from the Anti-state-church Association. On the platform we observed Drs. Brown and Alexander, Messrs. Robertson, Thomson, Campbell, Wight, Watson, and Smith of Biggar, ministers; Baillie Duncan, Councillors Cruikshanks and Russel, Duncan M'Laren, Esq., James Gray, Esq., &c.

JAMES PEDDIE, Esq., W.S., was called to the chair.

After prayer by Mr. Jonathan Watson, minister, the chairman briefly explained the object of the meeting.

Mr. E. MIALL then spoke as follows:—

If they had now come amongst them, the inhabitants and Dissenters of Scotland, in order to enforce upon them their views of this question, it was not merely because it had to do with the social and civil interests of man, but because it affected the spiritual and eternal welfare of immortal souls, and they believed that the inhabitants of Scotland were much concerned in it on that account. They had some facts illustrative, practically illustrative in England of the injury inflicted on the church of Christ by the compulsory system. They saw in every walk of life an impediment thrown in the way of the progress of truth and enlightened piety by the State paid clergy of the realm. They observed that whenever a movement was begun to promote the highest moral and spiritual interests of their countrymen, they must count on a long opposition from the State-paid clergy before it could overthrow their prejudices, or accommodate itself to their interest. Under these circumstances, a person who felt the slightest interest in the extension to the kingdom of Christ, ought doubly to be affected with the importance of this subject, and to view it not merely as some interesting and enlightened speculation, but as a question well adapted to take hold of the conscience and the heart. For his own part he could not live among scenes he was called on to witness—scenes in which the desecration of the first principles of morality were perpetrated under the name of religion—he could not live amidst such scenes and not feel his indignation roused and not take a part in any movement where legitimate means were employed in order to secure the overthrow, the utter downfall of so tremendous an evil [great applause]. He felt this matter pressing on his conscience before he was called on to take any public step on this subject. He was willing to step away from his sphere as a pastor, and to solemnly consecrate himself to one great object—the separation of Church and State. He had selected for this purpose a process of enlightenment on the public mind of England by means of the press. However mistaken he might be in the means for accomplishing this end, he felt that the subject was of such high importance, and was so practically connected with the best interests of mankind, that he considered himself justified in selecting employment of a more worldly kind than what belongs to the ministerial office. He regarded the work in which he was engaged as higher than that of a pastor, for, if he was successful, he should have thereby contributed more to the spirituality of Christ's kingdom. He mentioned this merely as an indication of his own feelings when he came into the land from which he derived, not certainly the first views which he entertained on the subject, but a confirmation of the views which he had originally held. In every movement on the voluntary question which was carried on in Scotland twelve or fourteen years ago, he took a deep and lively interest. The works then published he regularly read, and the reports of public meetings engaged much of his attention. He might say, that his views of the evils of church establishments—the various evils which they produce in reference to the church of Christ—were considerably enlarged by the discussions in Scotland. He had felt a deep interest in coming into this land in order to give expression to the sentiments and the emotions of his heart on this subject. He rejoiced in being one of the members of the deputation selected by the British Anti-state-church Association, that he might thus have an opportunity of manifesting that interest before them.

After giving a brief account of the constitution and labours of that Society, Mr. Miall continued:—

They were most anxious that the people of Scotland should thoroughly understand their position. He was sorry to say that, in England, they had not all shown that fidelity in regard to the Anti-state-church Association which they could desire to witness. On the contrary, he confessed that, though this Association was conducted on peaceable principles, and though it guarded, as far as possible, against all expression of opinion contrary to that which the gospel would foster in their hearts, it could not pretend to have the sympathy and co-operation of the whole body of English Dissenters. A considerable number of the more influential and wealthy portion of them had as yet stood aloof, and they pretended that such an agitation would do hurt to their spirituality of mind. It was usual for these parties to tread on the outer circle of the aristocratic world, and they were looking wistfully to what was passing within. He would not impute any motives to them that were not manifestly thrust upon them by their own professions. They wished, they professed to wish, to recommend the gospel to the notice of the great; and they thought that there was no chance that the minds of our nobles, senators, legislators, and those who moved in the upper circles, could ever take sufficient notice of the doctrines of Christianity, unless these doctrines were presented to them entirely apart from any discussion of the voluntary principle. He believed that there was a vast mass, even in England, of earnest and faithful men, on this subject, who went considerably before themselves; and they (the deputation) had come to the voluntaries of Scotland to ask them to communicate a fresh impulse to the cause. If Scotland would join them, if it would co-operate with them in their efforts, and come forward manfully to sanction the agitation afresh—if Scotland would refuse to stand any longer in the back-ground and witness the strife—if Scotland would step into the ranks and go forward, carrying the banner of voluntaryism, multitudes of individuals who were now silent and indifferent on this subject, when they saw this new accession to their power—this fresh sanction to their movements, would come forward and join them, and a moral strength and influence might thus be created, which would greatly influence the ultimate settlement of the question now at issue [great applause]. There were many things which might encourage them to take this course. He would only mention one or two, and, by the law of association, these might suggest others. Those who observed the ordinary events of society must have remarked, that almost everything ran into an ecclesiastical shape. It was impossible to enter on the commencement of any political struggle which did not, in some one direction or another, terminate in ecclesiastical affairs. They would find in every country on the continent, that, in respect to ecclesiastical matters, it was the special relationship in which the Church should stand to the magistrate that all agitation was going forward, that all interest was felt, and that all efforts were directed. That this was especially the case in this country, every one could tell. There was scarcely a political question of which the Church was not the bulwark and the guardian—there was scarcely a reform which was not prevented by the Church. This instrumentality, used by our civil rulers, was the most efficient leverage which they could employ. Affairs had now come into such inextricable confusion, that it was impossible to propose that the agitation of the Church question should be staved off for any length of time. Certain persons might hold a different view, but He who took up every event, who moved and regulated the affairs of society, seemed to have determined otherwise. Ireland was in a state that must be attended to. The establishment of Ireland, as a branch of the Church of England, could not be interfered with in any way without inflicting a severe injury on the principle of Establishments.

If they cut it down, a thing that would not be, if they pared it down to meet the wants of the Protestant people there, then a question would arise regarding the disposal of the surplus funds. But if they did not cut it down, the question would arise, how might they reconcile it to the minds of the Catholic population? The Ministers could only propose one scheme—all of them knew it—all had given expression to it,—the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood of Ireland. This would bring up the whole question. Was it not wise, then, for them to commence in time, seeing that they must go into the discussion, and especially when Providence was saying to them, "This is the way, walk ye in it?" It was considered that the public mind just now was in a favourable state for this discussion, as it was freed from its attachment to the great questions of the day. While the Corn-law League existed, and employed the energies of every one in Scotland and England, it was impossible to produce anything like feeling in reference to the subject before them. The people of England were led up to victory on the question of the corn-laws, and they had learned by that victory, to stand by great truths, and to act with fidelity; and though a powerful compact organisation should be opposed to them, they might hope for the interposition of heaven in their behalf, and might go forth confident of triumph [loud applause]. They had secured the triumph, and had retired from the field. They had left the energies and affections of Englishmen void, and it seemed to be a confident expectation that the next great question for agitation was the voluntary question. Those who were occupied with official rule were giving, not so much in public, but they were giving, continual admissions that the voluntary principle must become the great subject of discussion during the next ten or twenty years. While the public mind was thus awaking to the importance of this subject, ought not those who believe in the principles of voluntaryism, and consider that it is identified with the freedom of Christianity, and the spiritual interests of man, now that there is silence among politicians, and no great question commanding and absorbing the minds of men—ought they not to step forward and avail themselves of the facilities within their reach [cheers]? They could send knowledge on the winds of every day's post, through the medium of the railways and the penny post. They could thus reach a greater number of minds than they could otherwise have done. While, therefore, everything was preparing for them—while Providence was speaking to them—while events were speaking to them—while the public mind was open for the reception of truth—while peculiar facilities were presented for carrying on the work—did it not become the inhabitants of Scotland and England to go hand in hand, like brethren, to this great work. [Mr. Miall sat down amid loud applause.]

Mr. BURNET then addressed the meeting:—

There were (he said) many ready to say it was a good thing to have religion diffused in any way; that there were good men in the Established Church; that there were good men supported by State pay; that there were many things connected with religion, acknowledged and sustained by the country, that would give it efficacy and power in the estimation of the people; and that, after all, when they looked on an established church in this character, it really produced very favourable results with regard to the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. He knew that there were many who were carried away by these ideas. They said that they did not choose to belong to an established church themselves, but still they thought that there was something connected with a State church that might produce salutary effects. Some of their friends who had a regard for the ecclesiastical constitution of Dissenters, reasoned in this way. So far as reasoning was concerned, so far did it weaken their cause, paralyse their efforts, and send numbers away from their meetings not disposed to sustain them; and so far they contributed to the maintenance of all the evils of a church establishment. These persons did not intend to do so, and though statements to this effect were made to them again and again, still they were disposed to take up the granite, persuaded that they could make an impression on it. They have got this conviction, but they were entirely mistaken. They were prepared to deal with all kindness with these friends—some of them might go away from them, still friends they were, and to them they would continue their attachment. But look for a moment to the working of the thing. Did they find the Establishment really producing any beneficial results with regard to the gospel of Christ. Look back to the days of Scotland when the Erskines came out of the Establishment, when the Relief Church came out, and to the period when the two Secessions joined and became one. The voluntary principle, in all these cases, came out of the Establishment. The population of the north of Asia came out of Siberia to the sunny and warm climes of the Roman empire, and being settled down in peace, moulded and fashioned the kingdoms of modern Europe, instead of remaining barbarous and ignorant, as when hemmed in by Siberian snows. In the same way the Erskines, and their followers who came out of the Establishment, fashioned the bodies of Dissenters—erected such sanctuaries as the one in which they were at present met—as wave follows wave they diffused a knowledge of the gospel of Christ, spread themselves over the length and breadth of the land, and quickened the Establishment itself into vitality and activity [cheers]. Were they not ready to say, most assuredly the voluntary principle, after all, must be regarded as the fountain of the life, power, and vigour of the Church of Christ? Look to England, there they had an Establishment fashioned and sustained, and nicely fitted together.

Mr. Burnet then described the establishment of Protestantism by Henry VIII., and its subsequent history; the secession of 2,000 ministers in the time of Charles II., and the consequent revival of religion upon that event; and the case of Mr. Shore, who, because he was, or had been, a clergyman, was declared by the law incapable of preaching anywhere but in a church:—

Now, if they found the Establishment principle so very vicious in the effects which it produced, they might inquire, would it not do injury to a wider extent than in the case of Mr. Shore? They were now called on to recognise a new principle. It was the opinion formerly, that the magistrate might interfere with what was right, that he might establish the truth; but this was given up at the time of the Maynooth grant. The idea now was, not that truth should be endowed, but that the population of this country are to be regarded as the subjects of the monarch, whatever may be their religious views; and that as religion may be of some use in preserving public order, all religions might be endowed. The idea of endowing truth has been abandoned; the Establishments rested on a new foundation—everything was to be endowed. Christianity, at one time, was only to be sustained by the State; but the idea now was, that the magistrate might endow all and any of the subjects of the land, not because they held the truth, but merely because they were subjects. Who could object to this? Not surely the Establishment man. The only persons who could object, were those who objected to all endowments of religion. One man might go to the magistrate,

and say, Endow him; another might come and say, Endow him; and a third might come and say, Endow him also. In this way, the magistrate would be beset on all hands and occasions, till he was brought to say his business was with their lives and property—with their temporal rights; let them go away with their religious questions, and settle them among themselves [cheers]. Why could not the magistrate relieve himself in this way? It was the only course left open to him.

After some further remarks on the design of the Government to endow the Roman Catholic Church of Ireland, which were somewhat similar to those in his former address, Mr. Burnet concluded amid great applause.

Mr. JAMES ROBERTSON, of Portsburgh, then came forward, and said that two addresses more calculated to gain the object the speakers had in view, could not have been spoken than those they had just heard. The Dissenters of this country were wide awake to the designs of the Government. They were disposed to go forward against all endowments of religion whatever, and were prepared to throw their whole heart into this cause. He proposed that a committee should be appointed to carry the objects of the British Anti-state-church Association into effect. The motion was seconded by Mr. ANDREW THOMSON, minister, and unanimously agreed to. After prayer by Dr. Brown, the meeting separated.

GLASGOW.

On Thursday evening the Rev. Mr. Burnet, London, and Edward Miall, Esq., editor of the *Nonconformist*, deputation from the Anti-state-church Association, met with a number of the friends of that movement, in the Trades'-hall. The meeting consisted of above a hundred persons—James Anderson, Esq., in the chair. We observed on the platform the Rev. Drs. Wardlaw, Robson, Kidston, and M'Farlane, and Messrs. Anderson, Russell, &c.; W. P. Paton, Esq., W. Govan, Esq., J. Hamilton, and other influential laymen, were present. Tea having been served, the members of the deputation stated the position and prospects of the society, whose interests they have come to advocate; and others, in a conversational form, referred to the objects the deputation had in view. The meeting subscribed between £70 and £80—£10 were subscribed by a Free Churchman—to the funds of the society, and after a most cordial evening it broke up about half-past ten o'clock.—*Glasgow Examiner.*

PUBLIC MEETING.

Last (Friday) night a public meeting was held in West George-street Chapel, for the purpose of hearing addresses from the Rev. John Burnet and Mr. Edward Miall, the editor of the *Nonconformist* (better known to many as the unsuccessful opponent of Sir William Molesworth for the representation of Southwark), a deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association. The attendance was both numerous and respectable, considering the somewhat inclement weather. On the platform, beside W. P. Paton, Esq., who presided, we observed the Rev. Drs. Wardlaw, Kidston, Robson, King, M'Farlane, and Eadie; the Rev. Messrs. Burnet and Miall, when able and eloquent addresses were delivered by these gentlemen on the evils that have resulted from establishments to civil and religious liberty. They impressed upon the meeting the necessity of immediate and active co-operation with the British Anti-state-church Association. The Rev. Dr. Wardlaw then moved a resolution, thanking the deputation for their visit, for the able and eloquent addresses delivered to the meeting, as well as for their past labours in the cause of civil and religious liberty. The resolution also included the appointment of a large and active committee, consisting of clergymen and influential laymen, to consider as to the best means for carrying the recommendation into effect. The Rev. Dr. King seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted. Dr. M'Farlane then closed the proceedings with prayer. The Chairman, before the meeting separated, announced that the first subscription he had received in aid of this association was the sum of £10, sent him in a note by a member of the Free Church.—*Glasgow Citizen.*

In the *Glasgow Examiner* we find the following advertisement:—"The Rev. John Burnet and Mr. Edward Miall, from London, as a deputation from the above Society, will preach sermons appropriate to the object of their visit, on Sabbath, the 20th instant, as under:—Rev. John Burnet: forenoon, in West George-street chapel (Dr. Wardlaw's); afternoon, Greyfriars (Dr. King's). Mr. E. Miall: forenoon, Mr. Anderson's (John-street); evening, Dr. Macfarlane's (Erskine Church)."

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—It affords us much pleasure to intimate, that Mr. Miall, the able and uncompromising editor of the *Nonconformist*, in company with the equally celebrated minister, Mr. John Burnet, of Camberwell, London, are to appear as a deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association, in Mr. Nisbet's church, Abbey-street, Paisley, on Tuesday evening.—*Glasgow Post.*

MUSSELBURGH.—At the meeting held in the Town hall, on the 11th inst., to receive the deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association, resolutions approving of the object of the deputation, and appointing a committee to set for the district (including Musselburgh, Dalkeith, Portobello, Tranent, and Prestonpans), were carried unanimously. The movers and seconders were Mr. Brown, of Dalkeith; Mr. Lang, of Portobello; Mr. Deans, of Portobello; Mr. Parlance, of Tranent; Mr. Mann, of Musselburgh; and Mr. Burnet.

AFFECTING FAREWELL BETWEEN THE BISHOP OF SODOR AND MAN AND HIS DIOCESE.—Bishop Short has been translated to the see of St. Asaph, and if there be any truth in the subjoined, it is a fortunate event both for his flock and himself. On Saturday last (says the *Liverpool Mercury*), the High Bailiff of Douglas called a public meeting of the inhabitants of that town for the purpose of "voting an address" to the bishop on his retiring from the Isle of Man. At the hour appointed a considerable number of persons had assembled at the Court-house; the High Bailiff took the chair, read an address, which he said he had prepared, and without ever putting it to the vote, or offering or receiving any resolution for its adoption or rejection, called upon those present to sign it. About thirty persons having signed, Mr. Fargher objected to the address going forth as the act of a public meeting of the inhabitants of Douglas, unless it were put to the vote. The High Bailiff denied that the meeting was called for any other purpose than to sign the address, and upon Mr. Fargher attempting to argue the matter, ordered the court to be cleared by the police officer. This being done, the parties so unceremoniously ejected assembled outside, and carried unanimously a resolution declining to vote an address to Bishop Short. The reasons given were, that the Bishop had always identified himself with the opponents of a representative Government; that in ecclesiastical appointments he had appointed young men ignorant of the Manx language as pastors, passing over Manx clergymen who had been curates for many years; that he had failed to exert himself for the restoration of Bishop Barrow's charity funds to their designed use—popular parochial education throughout the island; that he had originated the late Marriage and Registry Bill, which was offensive to a great portion of the community; that in one of his late published charges he expressed the belief that the instructions of Dissenters to the Sabbath-school children were sending these innocents by thousands to destruction; and that he had refused to ordain the son of the late vicar of Braddan.

THE NEW BISHOPRIC OF MANCHESTER.—It is stated that early in the next session, the Ministers will propose to Parliament the immediate erection of Lancashire into a separate see, under the title of "the diocese of Manchester," to consist of the Archdeaconry of Manchester (including the deaneries of Blackburn, Leyland, Manchester, and Warrington), and also the independent deanery of Andrew's, or Amounderness, comprising, on the whole, 405 benefices; in fact, the whole of Lancashire, except the deanery of Cartmel and Furness, which will still appertain to the diocese of Chester. The new bishop (who will, it is thought, be the Hon. Mr. Villiers) will have the control of a patronage amounting to the aggregate annual income of £5,000.

CHURCH-RATE DISTRAINTS.—A correspondent, residing in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, has sent us the following statement of seizures for church-rates, by the Poor Man's Church (an ironical fellow was he who called it so):—From Thomas Box, Bishopsgate-without, 2 sacks of flour, £4 12s.; cash from chest, £2 15s.—total £7 7s. Evans and Clarke, cash from chest, £5 13s. 6d. Charles Gilpin, Shakespeare, 12 vols. hf. morocco; Napoleon, 2 vols.; History of the United States, 2 vols. 4to.; London Interiors, 1 vol. 4to.; National Gallery, hf. morocco, folio—£10 13s. John Hargrave, 30 silk umbrellas; 12 cotton do.—£11 16s. 9d. Friends' Meeting-house, Houndsditch, 36 chairs. Thomas Butter, 98 brushes, various—£5 2s. 6d. Peirson and Son, Sun-street, 12 coppers, 140lbs.—£7 7s. It may well be asked what value Churchmen put upon their principles, when they will not even raise amongst themselves funds for the repair of their building, and the payment of their ministers, but to support their principles thus avail themselves of the arm of the law to coerce the consciences, and to distract the property of their dissenting brethren.

THE LAWS AFFECTING CLERGYMEN.—THREATENED SECESSION OF 4,000 EVANGELICAL CLERGYMEN FROM THE CHURCH.—Dr. Holloway, incumbent minister of Fitzroy chapel, London-street, Tottenham-court-road, has addressed a letter to the Lord Chancellor, in which he prays his lordship's opposition to some "novel regulations and further encroachments upon the present liberty of the labouring clergy," which it is intended to introduce into the House of Lords in the course of the next session. The Doctor, after advertizing to the laws at present in force with respect to the clergy, alludes to the proposed regulations for the "corrections of clerks," which he severally condemns, inasmuch as he contends, that if more absolute power be made over to the hierarchy, so that any and every bishop, *ad arbitrium suum*, may depose his man for preaching, propagating, or implanting what such bishop, according to his own views and sentiments, may consider "unbecoming a clergyman," there will be no class of men in Christendom placed in greater jeopardy or more abject slavery, than the evangelical clergy, against whom, he alleges, the shaft is directed. Dr. Holloway views with great alarm, these, and other contemplated changes, and assures the Lord Chancellor that, if persisted in, a large number of clergymen (probably as many as 4,000) will leave the pale of the Established Church.

THE COUNT OF MONTMOLIN visited the Old Bailey on Wednesday, and was conducted over the prisons by Mr. Sheriff Kennard. The Count afterwards attended a banquet, over which the Lord Mayor presided. On his health being drunk, the Prince replied in a neat English speech.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The *Times* Paris letter of Thursday has the following:—"This day M. Guizot was summoned to the Tuilleries, to be present at an interview between their Majesties the King of the French and the King of the Belgians, on the Montpensier marriage affair, principally and generally on the course of mediation to be pursued in London by King Leopold. I cannot, of course, pretend to give anything of what passed on the occasion; but I think I can assure you, that few persons feel more keenly than his Majesty, Louis Philippe, the very indiscreet step he took in effecting the marriage in question—a marriage which that which is passing at this moment in Madrid, shows can never be productive of the national views which some people would ascribe to his Majesty in wishing to bring it about. Never, at any period since the accession of Philip V., was French influence in Spain less to be feared than I am assured it is at this precise moment."

The French Government have come to an important resolution with respect to Algiers. The principal military establishments of the colony are to be removed to the interior. The Governor and his staff, and the whole of the military administration, will henceforth be stationed at Medeath; the Governor of Oran, at Maserah; and the Governor of Constantine in a town in the interior not yet fixed. This new arrangement, it is supposed, will have a powerful effect in enabling the French to settle the country.

POLAND.

The *Siecle* maintains, on what it considers undoubted authority, that the kingdom of Poland, erected by the treaties of Vienna, is on the point of disappearing from the map of Europe, and to be portioned into Russian provinces. "On the 9th of January, 1847," it says, "the first day of the Russian year, the former kingdom of Poland is to assume the name of New Russia, and to be divided into the two governments of Warsaw and Lublin. Prince Paskiewicz, the present Governor of the kingdom of Poland, is to be succeeded by Prince Gorczakoff. The thirteen colleges of the kingdom are to be suppressed, and replaced by district schools. The Russian language is to be used in all public lectures. The Custom-offices are to be suppressed. Russian productions may be imported into Poland free of duty, but those of Poland will continue to pay an import duty in Russia."

THE WEST INDIES.

The Jamaica House of Assembly was opened by the Lieutenant-governor, in the absence of his Excellency Sir Charles Grey. There is likely to be a brisk session. A bill has been brought in for reducing all the salaries of public officers, including the clergy. The subject of proposing an income-tax had been suggested. The agitation on the Sugar Duties bill was kept up, numerous meetings had been held in different localities, and a series of resolutions had been agreed to by the House of Assembly, complaining of the withdrawal of protection, asserting the necessity of a reduction in the whole of the island establishments, "an equitable compensation" for the removal of the protecting sugar duties, and appointing a committee of address to her Majesty on the subject.

M. De Fabron, a passenger from Guadaloupe, has been delegated to advance the money for compensation on the emancipation of the negro population in the French islands.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

MR. COBDEN has arrived at Barcelona, the strong-hold of the Spanish protectionists.

PRINCE METTERNICH's death is not confirmed. He has been suffering from bronchitis, which is diminished; but the worst symptoms, those of advanced years, weigh heavily upon him.

JAPAN.—The *Presse* states that about the year 1843, the King of the Netherlands wrote a friendly letter to the Emperor of Japan, to induce him to depart from the exclusive system pursued for the last three centuries, by extending to all foreign nations the privilege of trading to Nangasaki and the islands of Nippon and Yesso. With immense difficulty the letter was conveyed to the Emperor's own hands; and then two whole years passed without any reply. At length, however, the Emperor has vouchsafed an answer to the King of Holland. He says that he has watched events in China, and noted the gradual breaking through of ancient institutions in that country, which he regards as a consequence of letting the English form establishments on a large scale at Canton. He is willing to leave the Dutch their present privileges; but he will resist to the utmost every extension of foreign intercourse. He winds up by saying:—"I have given orders to my officers in consequence, and the future will prove to you that our policy is wiser than that of the Chinese empire."

MR. J. S. BUCKINGHAM IN ROME.—On the 23rd October, Pope Pius IX. received, in a private audience, Mr. Buckingham, together with Mr. Freeborn, the English consular agent, and Dr. Samson Cary, who accompanied him. The holy father received the traveller with great benignity, and Mr. Buckingham had the honour of presenting his Holiness with the first volume of the *Transactions of the British and Foreign Institute of London*.

AMERICAN ELECTIONS.—At the late New York elections some thirty or forty prisoners were released from the Penitentiary by keepers, on the 2nd of November, on condition of voting the loco-foco ticket at the late election.

STATISTICS OF CHINA.—In China Proper there are 367,000,000 inhabitants, and in the dependencies of Manchoune, Mongolia, Turkestan, and Thibet, about 40,000,000, making a total of four hundred million people under one government! The population of the whole earth is estimated at from 800 to 1,000 millions. The number of inhabitants to each square mile is about the same as in England, and less than the number in Ireland. The most dense population in China is along the banks of the great rivers, particularly near the great Zang-tze-Kiang, and the central districts of the country,

where the waters furnish large supplies of food. The fecundity of the Chinese is visible in every village. The area of China Proper is given at 1,297,999 square miles, or 830,829,100 acres, of which 140,000,000 acres are in cultivation. Of the 18 provinces into which the empire is divided, 11 are inland, and the remaining 7 on the sea-coast. The average population to each square mile is 283; the total fixed revenue 35,000,000 taels (a tael is 6s.); the army, 1,232,000.—*Montgomery Martin*.

SHOCKING ILLUSTRATION OF PRO-SLAVERY SYMPATHY IN AMERICA.—A proof of the hideous depravation of American feelings by the system of slavery is afforded by the United States papers last received. The late John Randolph, by his will, directed the liberation of his slaves in Virginia, and his executor, Judge Leigh, after considerable search for an eligible location for his charge, considered Mercer county, Ohio, the most desirable, as land was cheap and good, and they might reckon upon the sympathy and instruction of a population of coloured settlers far advanced in intellectual and social improvements. He was afraid of the Ohio "black laws," but was assured that, in the present state of public sentiment, those laws could not be enforced; and, on that assurance, he made purchases and arrangements for the removal of the freed men. The agent landed them at Bremen; but the people assembled, placed a guard round the poor wanderers, and passed resolutions declaring their intention to enforce the laws of the state unless they were removed before ten o'clock next day. They were accordingly re-embarked, and encamped in the woods at a distance of more than twenty miles; the number being upwards of 300, and many of them women and children. "Here," says the *New York Herald*, "is a case which appeals to every humane heart. These poor unoffending creatures, willing to work, peaceful and orderly, have no spot on which to rest their feet. Driven out of their native state by slavery, they are driven back upon it by heartless prejudice. If continued in Ohio, they will be mobbed; if returned to Virginia, they will be enslaved. Good God! that any of thy children should be so trampled upon!"

The *Emancipator* exclaims, "Talk not of the cruelties of the savage, the Arab, and the Turk: the cruelty of our reformed feelings—prejudice against African colour—seeks in vain for a parallel amongst them. Virginia casts them out—Ohio casts them out: the provision of their late master and the care of his faithful executor are unavailing to procure them a resting-place in our country. An exile to the frozen regions of Canada, or the tropical malaria of Africa, or return to hopeless slavery, is the only condition on which we will permit them to breathe the vital air which God has provided for them." English monarchy proclaims the freedom of every slave that sets his foot on British ground; whilst American republicanism will not allow the African who has been freed to remain upon its soil.

TAHITI.—News *via* NEW YORK.—A recent letter from an American in the Pacific, presents this melancholy glimpse of the effects of the French invasion upon Tahiti:—"It is sink or swim with the natives of Tahiti, at the latest advices. They had, *en masse*, assaulted the French lines, and obtained some trifling advantages. The chief difficulty of the French arises from scarcity of forage and provisions. Admiral Hamelin's arrival has somewhat altered the position of parties. He landed from the ships of war about 1,000 men, and, after a severe action, drove the Tahitians completely from their lines to a pass in the mountains, where they were surrounded by his forces. Quarter was allowed them if they would deliver up their arms, and wives, and children, as hostages for their future peace. The result is not yet known here."—*New York Evangelist*, Nov. 25.

IMMIGRATION TO THE COLONIES.—The *Times* states that despatches are on their way to Sir William Gomm, Governor of Mauritius, in which the outline of an ordinance for promoting immigration and the industry of immigrants is recommended for the adoption of the Legislative Council. The main features of this scheme are three—first, the establishment of a register of immigrants; secondly, their protection against undue restraint; and, lastly, the regulation of contracts of service, for the mutual protection of both masters and servants. No immigrant will be allowed to leave the island until he has completed five years' "industrial residence"—that is, five years under contract to work; for every year short of five he must pay a fine of £1; while not under contract he will undergo a monthly tax; and immigrants under contract, who absent themselves from work, will incur a fine of 2d. a day. Government is also about to aid the other sugar-growing colonies. A Government steamer is shortly to ply between the Koro coast and the West Indies, for the purpose of carrying free African labourers to the three colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.—The *Constitutionnel* says:—"The British Government has lately received information from its agents on the Western Coast of Africa, of a frightful occurrence, which, however, is not novel in the annals of slavery. A negro chief, having 2,000 slaves upon his hands, and being unable to dispose of them, had them all killed before his own eyes. The French Government has also been made acquainted with this horrible massacre. We are sure that the Cabinets of London and Paris have resolved to join in punishing with severity the cruel chief."

THE CHOLERA.—It appears that the cholera has ceased to commit its ravages at Ispahan, but that it still raged at Schiraz and Kirman. This plague has not advanced in the direction of the Caucasus, Tiflis and Erivan are still free from it, and the rigours of the season will prevent its passing the Caucasus. But Europe is threatened with this terrible plague in another direction. After having carried off numbers of the inhabitants of Bus-sora and Bagdad, it has got to Diarbekir. There is a constant commercial intercourse between this town and Aleppo, and it is much to be feared that it may spread into Syria.

ALLEGED MILITARY EXCESSES IN INDIA.—By the last mail from India, Lord Gough has sent an indignant and complete denial of the report, that after one of the recent victories on the Sutlej, Sikh prisoners were hanged and shot by British troops.

DISTRESS IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.—On Friday a public meeting was held in the Music-hall, Edinburgh, pursuant to a requisition, for the purpose of adopting means for mitigating the destitution now extensively prevailing in the highlands and islands of Scotland. The Lord Provost, having read the requisition, and briefly adverted to the urgent necessity which existed for all classes to unite in assisting their destitute fellow-countrymen, he called upon Mr. Norman M'Leod, of Dalkeith, who gave a deplorable description of the distress of the peasantry, Lord Cunningham seconded the resolution, and Dr. Candish stated that the body with which he was connected were anxious to throw the funds they had already collected into one common treasury, to be distributed by a general committee, in the most judicious manner. Mr. Watson, Bishop Terrot, Lord Murray, Mr. Spiers, and Mr. Crawford, subsequently addressed the meeting, which unanimously agreed in the appointment of a general committee to raise subscriptions, to be appropriated to the necessities of the destitute in the most judicious manner that could be devised. It was stated by Mr. Spiers that Government would assist in transporting supplies of food, or sell from their provision ships, to a relief committee, bread-stuff at as favourable a rate as it could be procured at in the southern markets; and also transport from remote localities of the highlands and islands able-bodied men, for whom employment might be procured in large numbers on the railways now in course of formation. The amount of contributions raised by the Free Church is nearly £8,000.

ELECTION OF COMMON-COUNCILMEN.—Monday, being St. Thomas's-day, the annual election of common-councilmen for the respective wards of the city of London took place with the usual formalities. The corn-law question, which formed the principal subject of discussion at these meetings last year, was replaced on the present occasion by the more locally interesting dispute between the Court of Aldermen and the members of the Common-council, on the subject of the Freemen's Qualification Bill. In almost every ward-mote the members of the lower court took opportunity to lecture the presiding aldermen for their unwillingness to support the bill, and at one or two meetings, the aldermen objected to put resolutions on the subject, placed in their hands for that purpose. At the ward-mote of Aldersgate, on which Sir P. Laurie (who stands almost alone in supporting the bill above alluded to) presided, Mr. Besley complimented the worthy alderman on the independent course he had taken in the matter; and in the course of a powerful and humorous speech attacked the irresponsible power exercised by the Court of Aldermen. He concluded by moving a series of resolutions: the first, recommending the citizens at large to call for the interference of Parliament, in order to prevent the revenues of the city of London from being perverted to private purposes, instead of the patriotic uses for which they were originally intended: the second, praying for the abolition of a life-appointed magistracy: and the third, conveying the especial thanks of the ward-mote to Sir P. Laurie, for the support he gave the Common Council in the late struggle. They were carried *en masse*.

SALT MONOPOLY.—A deputation of the merchants, manufacturers, shipowners, and others interested in the salt-trade to India, waited on Sir John Hobhouse, at the Board of Control, on Thursday. The object was to urge the abolition of the power monopolised by the East India Company to manufacture salt in India. A memorial to this effect was read by Sir Denis Le Marchant; and several gentlemen followed with addresses of the same purport. Sir John Hobhouse promised to bring the subject before the Cabinet. He could not, however, hold out any immediate prospect that the East India Company would surrender £1,300,000 of annual revenue. The India Board, being a concurrent, rather than a directly controlling power, could not issue peremptory instructions; but everything should be done which the case would permit. The East India Company had already sent a despatch to the Indian Government on the subject; but he was not at liberty to disclose the nature of the communication.

ACTION FOR LIBEL AGAINST THE "SPECTATOR."—The President of the Society of British Artists (Mr. Hurlstone) has obtained £100 damages against the proprietor of the *Spectator*, for a statement published in that journal, charging the managers of the Institution with affixing fictitious names to a memorial. The defendant published subsequently a contradiction of the statement, but this does not seem to have been sufficient.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY LEAGUE.—Public meetings were held in the Town-hall, Ashton, on Thursday and Friday last, to receive a deputation from the Anti-slavery League, consisting of Mr. Frederick Douglass and Mr. R. Smith. In consequence of the sudden illness of C. Hindley, Esq., who was to have presided, William Cluley, Esq., took the chair on both occasions. A letter was read from Mr. Hindley, expressive of his regret at being unable to attend, and his sympathy with the object of the meetings. C. Hindley, Esq., J. Cluley, Esq., John Mills, Esq., Mr. W. Haffil, and other gentlemen, contributed to the funds of the League.

REPRESENTATION OF WESTMINSTER.—A public meeting of the electors was held on Thursday, in Dean-street, Soho, for the purpose of hearing an exposition of the political principles of C. Cochrane, Esq., a candidate for the representation of Westminster at the next general election. Mr. Cochrane said he was an advocate for civil and religious liberty to the fullest extent. He was an advocate for extending the suffrage to professional men, to tutors, clerks, and other classes, at present not entitled to vote. He was in favour of vote by ballot, of shortening the duration of Parliaments, of sanitary and other social improvements. He was opposed to the New Poor Law. A resolution approving of the principles announced by Mr. Cochrane, and recommending him to the electors of Westminster, was put and carried.

THE GREAT BATTLE OF THE GAUGES is, it seems, to be fought again in the railway committees during the approaching session of Parliament: and the belligerent parties—the Great Western and the London and North Western Company—are preparing to take the field.

IRELAND.

IMPORTANT TREASURY MINUTE.—A letter, addressed by Mr. Trevelyan, of the Treasury, to the Commissioners of Public Works, announces the intention of Ministers to propose, next session, several measures giving considerably increased facilities to landowners to borrow from the Treasury for the improvement of their property, and the profitable employment of the poor. We are aware that, in the present impoverished state of the landowners, this will be obnoxious to the same opprobrious comparison as that suggested for the Irish poor-law. The bare mention of mortgages, settlements, and entails, will be considered sufficient to prove the little value of such kindness, and the defective character of the staff on which we are about to lean. However, the principle of the responsibility of real property will now, we believe, be carried out, and actually enforced, as the following extract from Mr. Trevelyan's letter will show:—

"My Lords are further of opinion, that with the view both of providing security for the repayment of the advances from the public purse, and of relieving entailed estates from the evil of accumulated charges, two powers should be conferred by the measures which it is proposed to submit to Parliament.

"First, a power to the proprietor of an entailed estate to sell for the purpose of repaying the advances for improvements made by the Board of Works, or, if made by himself with the aid of Government money, under the inspection of the Board of Works, any part of the estate so improved, or of other estates settled to the same uses, in the same manner as a power exists in this country of selling for the redemption of the land-tax.

"Secondly, a power to the Government of selling, in default of payment of two consecutive instalments, so much of the land improved or of other estates settled to the same uses, which the proprietor might prefer, as would repay capital, interest, and expenses of sale."

This is one of the most important measures ever proposed, in regard to settled estates, in this country.

THE RECENT MEETING OF LANDLORDS.—The committee, formed out of the meeting of landlords held on Friday last, and adjourned to Monday, have since been actively engaged in framing their first circular, which is promised to be laid before the public early in the ensuing week. It is said that the committee have decided that a modification of the Labour-rate Act, involving a change in the manner of assessment, and in the application of the money raised under it, is of essential importance as the primary step towards surmounting the difficulties of the ensuing spring and summer.

RELIEF OF THE POOR.—The severity of the weather having caused, in many instances, a partial or total suspension of public works, thereby depriving thousands of the means of earning their daily subsistence, a well-timed circular has been issued from the Relief Department of the Board of Works, giving directions that when the works are stopped in consequence of snow or severe rain, the labourers should receive half a day's pay.

THE ROBBERIES OF PAY CLERKS are becoming more frequent. A correspondent of the *Evening Mail* thus writes from the county of Kilkenny:—"I have to inform you, that Mr. F. Burroughs, the pay clerk for the baronies of Iverk and Knocktopher, was attacked by three men, one of whom had a double-barrelled gun, capped, the other had a single gun, and the third a blunderbuss; they forced him off the car into the ditch, while one of them searched the car, and took from him a pair of pistols; they robbed him of £105 in silver, which he had to pay the men for that day; they also searched his pockets, but by some good chance £7 in notes escaped. All this occurred between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, and on the road going through the estate of the Lord Lieutenant, between a place called Lestrolil and Kilnananspie. When they were going away they cut the traces and bridle, and carried off the winkers, leaving him without anything to guide his horse."

OUTBREAK IN CLONMEL.—The *Cork Examiner* contains the following:—"Clonmel, Dec. 17.—Referring to my communication of the 15th, in which I stated that there was an expectation of an outbreak taking place here, I regret to observe that my information was correct. No violence took place in the town until three o'clock in the evening, when several carts laden with flour were attacked in Irishtown by an immense concourse of women and children—the men taking no part in the affair. They succeeded in wresting three sacks off the carts, but, in their hurry, excitement, and confusion, they cut and injured a great number of bags, the contents of which were strewed over the road and along the street, several inches deep. The police were immediately at the scene of outrage, and succeeded in capturing several famishing women, whom they lodged in gaol. The outskirts and environs of the town presented a more alarming and determined appearance; large masses of men and women perambulated the different roads leading from it in every direction, and levying contributions on every carrier of provisions. They commenced by attacking and abstracting seventeen sacks of flour from some carts on the Cahir road, two of which, by the activity of the police, were subsequently recovered; but there was no account of the other fifteen. From the determined and systematic manner in which the depredations were conducted, it became necessary to send parties of military and police in charge of everything in the way of provisions coming to or going from Clonmel. Day and-night patrols are continually coming in and going out. Magistrates galloping one way, and mounted orderlies another—all is confusion, excitement, and dismay."

STOPPAGE OF PUBLIC WORKS IN CLARE.—ENNIS, DEC. 15.—We regret to have to state that the officers of the Board of Works have found it necessary to suspend some of the works at present going forward in the parish of Kilmaley, in consequence of the labourers using violence towards the stewards, and driving them away from the works, because they were strangers in the neighbourhood. The works about to be stopped in consequence of this are—the new road from Loughburke to Kilrush mail road; also Gurtiganiv hills, and the new road at Aughalana.

MR. O'CONNELL'S REPEAL AFFAIRS are under a cloud. The Dublin *Freeman* of Thursday gives some news of the conference between the Old Ireland and Young Ireland delegates. The deputations could not settle the terms of reconciliation. The "moral force" leader limited his view to the simply legal question; but the deputation urged the necessity of the settlement of "other questions" (including a clearing up of the accounts) so soon as the legal one should be adjusted. This Mr. O'Connell peremptorily refused. The *Freeman* publishes a letter from Mr. Smith O'Brien to his *quondam* leader. He says it was a mistake to suppose him averse from an accommodation; but he wanted a "written communication," as safer than an oral communication, from Dr. Miley. He drops the discussion of "physical force," but seeks to introduce into the Association "such changes in its mode of conducting business as will tend to increase its moral influence."

IRELAND AND LIVERPOOL.—A correspondent of the *Spectator* estimates the value of cattle imported into Liverpool from Ireland during the year at £4,305,786. If to this return be added the imports of stock into Bristol and Glasgow, the total value cannot be less than six millions of money; a pretty fair sum, observes the writer, for the pauperised nation to pocket. Ireland has, on an average, exported three million quarters of grain to this country; her imports this year far exceed her exports; her grain crops were all average ones—wheat beyond an average crop. Supposing that the food of four millions of people was destroyed by the potato disease, here we have three million quarters of grain, that formerly was exported, kept at home—sufficient to keep three million souls for twelve months.

SALE OF ARMS FOR IRELAND.—Mr. Lovell, a Government official from the Ordnance arrived on Tuesday at Birmingham, and called together the Government contractors, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of guns that have been recently exported from this town to Ireland. The principal men in the trade were assembled on the occasion, and they unanimously reported an increased demand, but agreed in opinion that whatever use may hereafter be made of the guns now being shipped for Ireland, their immediate purchase is the result of a pecuniary speculation, and in no way connected with any known illegal combination. The inquiry then extended to the number sold; and, from the best calculations that could be made, it was computed that the total extra number of guns of all sorts and sizes might amount to about, but not exceeding, 3,000, by far the greater portion consisting of fowling-pieces of an inferior description, and not of a military character. Mr. Lovell was fully satisfied of the truth of the above, and will report accordingly to the Government. An extensive factor was applied to by a respectable Irish dealer, for fowling-pieces, and on being informed that he could be supplied with what is properly designated fire-arms, he at once declined to purchase, observing that it was not a trade he desired to engage in.

THE POLAR EXPEDITION.—The *Morning Herald* contradicts a statement that anxious inquiries had been made at the Admiralty by the relatives of those engaged in Sir John Franklin's expedition. The last accounts from Sir John were dated the 12th July, 1845, at Disco; and the circumstance that no news had been brought home by whalers is accounted for by the fact that the explorers have penetrated further than the whalers ever go. There is no anxiety to be felt on the subject.

THE WEATHER AND THE ROADS.—By last Wednesday morning there was a good deal of ice in the Thames. In the metropolis only a small quantity of snow has fallen, but there has been a good deal throughout the country. In many parts between Carlisle and Edinburgh the drifts have been eight or nine feet thick, and in other places it has been as deep. Of course the mails on the coach-roads have been much delayed, and on the railways to some extent. In Ireland the frost has been very severe. The mails have been delayed in their arrival at Dublin by the snow. About Newcastle the fall of snow has been enormous; it is said to have been unexampled for a quarter of a century. Many railways were so blocked up that all traffic was at an end for some time.

A LUCKY EXCHANGE.—We (says the *Tipperary Free Press*) have just been told, that a man who sold a pig in this market was robbed of £2 by two armed men, on Monday last, on the Carrick road: the fellows, not content, stripped him also of a new coat. The poor man remonstrated, and said he would die with the cold, when the robber threw him his own old coat in exchange, with which he sorrowfully trudged off, and, on reaching home, found fifteen golden sovereigns carefully wrapped in one of the old pockets.

CROSSED CHEQUES.—Considerable dismay has been created in the City, from the Bank of England's having formally disregarded the old commercial custom, not however founded in law, of refusing to pay "crossed cheques" to any other parties than the bankers with whose name they have been crossed. A cheque was paid at once to a private person, although it was "crossed."

THE RAJAH OF SATTARA.—On Wednesday, at a quarterly general court of Proprietors of East India Stock, held at the East India-house, Sir J. Weir Hogg in the chair, after some business had been disposed of, Mr. Gordon proceeded to discuss the case of the ex-Rajah of Sattara, and was about to read a printed pamphlet upon this subject, when a proprietor inquired whether a member was at liberty thus to occupy the time of the Court? The Chairman said, it was inconsistent with the usages of the House of Commons, which regulated the proceedings of all public assemblies, and, with the practice of such assemblies, for a gentleman to get up and read a printed pamphlet. Mr. Gordon said this very document had been read at various public meetings throughout the country. The Chairman: You had better move that you may be allowed to read the pamphlet. Mr. Gordon moved accordingly, but with no better success than before, no one seconding his motion.

LODGE ASHLEY has declined to come forward as a candidate for the representation of the city of Bath.

POPULAR EDUCATION.

DEVON COUNTY CONFERENCE.

(Abridged from the *Western Times*.)

According to announcement, this important meeting was held at Exeter on Wednesday last. The principal towns of the county, as far as concerned the nonconforming population, were fairly represented in the delegates who came to attend it—the Dissenting ministers, especially those connected with the Independent and Baptist denominations, being a large proportion of the assembly. The Methodist connexion, who act independently of other sections of the Christian church, were not represented herein, though we saw several lay members of that body in the meeting. The only gentlemen present connected with the Church of England were the chairman, Mr. Heathcott, M.P., and Mr. Sillifant.

The conference met shortly after twelve o'clock, at the Atheneum. This meeting was not strictly a public meeting; but tickets of admission were issued to those visitors who were understood to be favourable to unsectarian and scriptural education. They were not, however, very numerous at this morning meeting, which was intended for business, and conducted throughout with an evident desire to save time, and avoid unnecessary declamation in discussing the important questions which came before them. The following was the notice paper:—

1. Is it the opinion of this conference that further efforts should be made to extend and improve education in this county?
2. Should the education provided be on the comprehensive principle of the British and Foreign School Society?
3. Does the conference consider that education should be left entirely to local efforts, or would it prefer some comprehensive organisation, with a central body to encourage and assist local endeavours?
4. What should be the constitution of such central body, and what would be its appropriate functions?
5. What means should be adopted to raise funds, and in what way should such funds be employed?
6. What are the feelings of the conference on the subject of Government aid in promoting education?
7. How shall the central committee be selected—by ballot after nomination, or simply by show of hands?
8. Shall a commencement be made by receiving the names of those favourable to the design?

To the execution of this task, the honourable and reverend gentlemen addressed themselves as soon as they had well assembled. The chairman was Edward Divett, Esq., M.P.; and among those present we noticed J. Heathcott, Esq., M.P. for Tiverton; J. Sillifant, Esq.; Ambrose Brewin, Esq.; Edward Davy, Esq.; Joseph Davy, Esq.; R. Peake, Esq., of Kingsbridge; John Dymond; W. Lee, Esq.; W. F. Windatt, Esq.; Robert Were Fox; the Revs. Dr. Payne, H. Madgin, of Tiverton, J. Bigwood, J. Bristow, W. J. Cross, George Gould, F. Bishop, of Exeter; Revs. J. Pyer, E. Jones, W. Spencer, of Plymouth and Devonport; Revs. — Lockwood, of Tavistock; — Tarrington, Totnes; — Fletcher, Topsham; — Browne, Dean, of Southmolton; W. O'Neile, of Witheridge; N. Hellings, of Exeter; and Messrs. Osborne, J. P. Nichols, T. Knott, W. J. P. Wilkinson, — Hitchens, &c., &c., there being very many strangers, whose names we were unable to learn.

In order to facilitate the business of the day, the Revs. Messrs. Bigwood and Madgin were appointed the secretaries; and Messrs. Lee, Dymond, Nichols, and Rev. G. Gould, a committee, who took their seats around a centre table in front of the chairman, and commenced their functions.

After some further preliminary arrangements, the Rev. H. MADGIN read the following

REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE:—

The provisional committee rejoice in the meeting of the conference, as the consummation of their labours, and congratulate the friends of education on this practical response to their appeal. The inquiry which has been instituted has elicited the fact, that education of a suitable nature to the wants and demands of the present times is much needed throughout the county, and that the means in operation to supply instruction to its youth are altogether inadequate to meet the necessities of the case. Taking as the basis of their calculations the returns made to Parliament in 1841, it appears that the population of the county was then 533,462; allowing the usual rate of increase as one and a half per cent. per annum, it is now about 573,500 persons, of which children between the ages of five and twelve and a half years are calculated as one-sixth of the whole population. According to this calculation, 95,580 children ought to be receiving instruction in this county. Inquiries which have been instituted show, that there are:—National schools, 90; British schools, 48; Infant, 8; not described, 50; Grammar schools, 17; endowed schools, not classical, 51; in all, 264 schools. On the supposition that this number were doubled, the supply will still be felt to be distressingly small, and including private schools, it is calculated there can hardly be 20,000 under daily instruction. In addition to the inadequacy of the provision to supply the educational wants of the county, the committee would submit, that the existing schools are very unequally distributed—so that, whilst in some places there are several, in others there are none; and, further, that much of the instruction which is given is inefficient and unproductive of good. The question at once arises, By whom, and by what means, can the deficiency be supplied? The provisional committee rely upon the Christian philanthropists of the county to meet the emergency of the case now laid before them, in the full conviction, that whilst all efforts hitherto have proved comparative failures, the fact is to be accounted for by the lack of all combination to secure an efficient system of education. Let the zealous friends of a sound evangelical and secular education blend their sympathies, their contributions, their efforts, and their prayers, and, ere long, we may expect that, through the Divine blessing, our beautiful county will be filled with an enlightened and industrious population, whose energy and integrity will produce general security, peace, and prosperity, and who will be training for eternal blessedness in the world to come.

It was resolved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by the Rev. JOHN PYER, that this report be adopted. After some little conversation between the secretaries and the Revs. E. Jones and W. O'Neile, with reference to the statistics, the data for which Mr. MADGIN said he had partly obtained from the companion to the *British Almanack* for this year, and other official papers of equally respectable authenticity,

The CHAIRMAN, having read over the list of the questions for discussion, proposed No. 1.

Mr. SILLIFANT moved the first resolution, which, with the others, will be found advertised elsewhere.

Mr. WINDEATT expressed his surprise at the calculation of the number of uneducated children; in answer to which

The CHAIRMAN said he believed these calculations were consistent with what was known of the whole country. The circumstances of Devonshire were such, from the dispersed state of the parishes, and the frequent inability of parents to pay for education, that there was nothing connected with this county to make the truth less applicable; and therefore he believed the statements which had been made, as to the deficiency of education, were consistent with the facts [hear, hear]. The motion was now put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. MADGIN then read an interesting document, which had been handed, not for formal reception, but merely in the way of friendly presentation, from Ambrose Brewin, Esq., of Tiverton, a gentleman devoted to the cause, and practically acquainted with the subject. The gist of his remarks is contained in the following extract:—

Unless it can be *unequivocally* shown to the Government *at once* that its interference is not required, it will interfere. The question then arises, whether, by a determined resolution not to accept aid on the mild and favourable terms, which it is believed would, *at the present moment*, be obtained, the friends of Scriptural education will not be committed to a most unequal and unsuccessful conflict, which will end by the intervention of the State in a far more extensive, and perhaps objectionable way? Under the impression that this would be the case, it is suggested for earnest consideration, that it would be wise to seek pecuniary aid from the Government, in the erection (and in the maintenance of schools if offered) on the condition of the inspection being always arranged with the consent of the Borough-road Committee, and the right reserved of renouncing connexion with the State, if found necessary, by repaying the sum originally advanced towards the buildings; and as a similar arrangement is made for the National Schools, by the inspectors having the sanction of the Archbishop of Canterbury—this would be probably allowed as an act of justice.

Several members expressed obligation to Mr. Brewin, for his valuable contribution; and it was resolved, on the motion of Dr. PAYNE, seconded by Mr. WINDEATT, that it be received and lie upon the table.

The CHAIRMAN then read the second question; when Mr. BIGWOOD introduced the very able and energetic secretary of the British and Foreign School Society,

Mr. H. DUNN, who concisely stated the objects and method of the British Society.

A resolution, expressing approbation of the system of the British Society, as the best means of supplying a sound and evangelical education, was moved by Mr. BREWIN, and seconded by the Rev. W. SPENCER. Mr. THOMAS KNOTT expressed his conviction of the importance of adopting some such system, which should give sound secular education, together with the open Bible, the charter of human redemption, and in which would be found a code of morals that would not be afforded by Hume, or Gibbon, or Rousseau, or Mirabeau, or any other writer. Mr. SILLIFANT enlarged upon the advantages of the comprehensive constitution of the British Society. It was not like that proposed by Dr. HOOK, who was as yet but a tyro in the question of comprehensive education, and who would make the system purely secular, but have class-rooms all round the school, in which sectarianism should be inculcated *ad nauseam*. The British system, on the other hand, which was a tried system, and no new-fangled theory, was founded on the broad scriptural basis, as comprehensive as he (Mr. Sillifant) could conceive. The Scriptures were read every day; no portion being excluded, but with the assistance of a little book of extracts. Some further discussion took place on this question, and Mr. OSBORNE suggested a modification of Mr. Brewin's resolution, which would render it, he thought, more comprehensive. Mr. PEAK seconded the amendment of Mr. Osborne, because he considered it to comprehend the latter part of the original motion also, but to be more simple and less objectionable. After some observations from the Rev. Dr. PAYNE, the Revs. Messrs. BIGWOOD and BISHOP, and other gentlemen, the original mover and seconder consented to the proposed alteration; and the resolution was adopted in the following form:—“That the education provided shall be on the comprehensive principle of the British and Foreign School Society”—the Rev. F. BISHOP stating that he voted for this resolution, on the understanding that “the said principles were those contained in the published authorised documents of the society.” The resolution having been carried unanimously, the chairman read the third question; upon which the resolution, moved by the Rev. Mr. PENMAN, of Axminster, and seconded by Mr. THOMAS KNOTT, recommending the formation of a county organisation, was adopted.

Upon the next question, as to “What should be the constitution of the central body?”—Mr. HEATHCOTT, M.P., moved a resolution, specifying the functions of the different officers, which was seconded by Mr. JOHN DYMOND, and carried without opposition.

The Rev. W. J. CROSS, upon the next question, moved that application be made to the county for donations and subscriptions to aid in forming a fund of at least **SIX THOUSAND POUNDS**, and that it be appropriated either to general or local purposes—in, firstly, defraying the expenses; secondly, making grants to aid in procuring school-rooms—supporting teachers, and training them, &c. The Rev. N. HELLINGS seconded the motion, expressing himself, however, not very sanguine about the large sum mentioned. The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the reading of the sixth question,

The Rev. Mr. LOCKWOOD moved the following resolution:—

That this Conference considers the united efforts of the friends of education best adapted to secure the good, efficient, and religious education of the people, and that it be the object of this conference to call into exercise such united efforts; and that the expediency of applying for Government aid to be left to the decision of the local committees.

He said he did not know any good likely to result from ascertaining the opinion of the Conference, on this vexed question. For his own part, he had no scruple

at all about accepting the aid of the Government in the ordinary way in which it had been received by the British and Foreign Society. When he voted for the society just now, he did it thoroughly approving of the whole course adopted by them [hear, hear]; and he supposed no one would wish the Conference to prohibit local committees from receiving the aid of Government given for the purpose of building, and that only in consideration of themselves raising a certain portion.

The Rev. Dr. PAYNE said that this very ably-worded resolution was calculated to shut out a controversy, which would be interminable, and on which it would not do any good to enter. He could not go with his friend in saying that he could most cordially receive Government aid for education [cheers]. He had the most unconquerable difficulty in receiving Government aid in the support of religious education. He believed his opinions were final on that point; and, not long ago, he was, perhaps, almost equally decided against the receiving Government aid for secular education. He confessed, in the presence of this assembly, that his opinion on that point had been changed; and the greater consideration he gave to the point, the more did he find his opinion changed. He strongly suspected that they would be constrained ultimately to resort to Government aid for the promotion of the general secular education of the country; leaving the religious education of the country to be provided for in some other way [cheers]. He was, however, most cordial in the support of this resolution; inasmuch as it threw the onus upon the district committees. He did not see, for his part, how any one district committee could receive Government aid, now that they had determined to connect religious with secular education [hear, hear].

Mr. HEATHCOTT, M.P., then addressed the meeting, at some length, in favour of Government aid in education:—

He had had some experience with regard to schools [great cheering], and he knew that without Government aid, although there were a few favourable localities, towns where wealth and education prevailed, and where those were congregated together who had the means of supplying all that was wanted, he thought no man would say that was the case generally, throughout the county of Devon [cheers; a member—“Exeter”]. Yes, it would do very well for Exeter. It was intimated that Exeter could provide for itself; but although he did not know much of Exeter himself, he had an idea that Exeter was greatly deficient [great cheering and laughter]. And if they could not do in such a city as Exeter what was wanted, what would they do upon the borders of Dartmoor and Exmoor, and the cold regions of the North [cheers]? He did urge upon them seriously to reflect upon the responsibility they would assume. He wished they would not only allow the local committee to receive Government aid, but set them the example [cheers and laughter]. He would make a confession to them, which he dared say would lower him very much in the opinions of some of his friends, but not in his own [cheers]. He had established a school at Tiverton [cheers], and without Government aid. But he would tell them candidly now, that if this movement had been made seven years ago, and he had had an opportunity of contributing his mite to the general support of education, he would have applied to Government in his own case for a portion of the public funds [hear, hear], because by that means he should have been introducing more means into his county than he had done purely by establishing a school at his own expense [cheers]. What he got from Government, he could afford to have given to the general fund, and he should have been better satisfied with it, even than he was now [cheers].

The CHAIRMAN declined to put the resolution in its present form, because it did not dispose of the question on the notice paper.

Mr. OSBORNE then moved, “That it is desirable that the Government be applied to for a grant in furtherance of the education of the people.”

The Rev. JOHN BIGWOOD explained the terms of the original resolution, by saying that it was wished to make this a practical meeting, and to confine the discussions to what the conference would do. The British schools were under the direction of local committees, independent of the association, and it appeared desirable to leave them to apply or not, as they might think proper; because the Government at present only granted to local schools, and not to organised associations. He expressed, however, as an individual, a decided opinion against any grant from Government.

After some observations from Mr. JOHN DYMOND, who said “he had no objection to Government aid in the promotion of that kind of religious education which was given in the British and Foreign schools, and he did not feel that this was infringing on the principle he held, that state pay ought not to be received for the teaching of the gospel”—and from the Rev. W. O'NEILE, and other gentlemen,

Mr. EDWARD DAVY seconded the amendment of Mr. Osborn, expressing perfect concurrence with the hon. member for Tiverton, and referring to Holland and Prussia as examples of the successful working of a comprehensive system of education, supported by the Government.

Mr. SILLIFANT trusted they would let this be an adjourned question, worthy, indeed, of deep consideration—that they would allow the machinery to be formed now, and another conference could be summoned at some future time to consider the question. The amendment having been withdrawn, as well as the original motion, the Chairman having previously obtained the permission of the meeting, a motion for the adjournment of the question was made by Mr. SILLIFANT, seconded by Mr. LEE, and, after some remarks from Mr. THOMAS KNOTT, Mr. BREWIN, and the Rev. W. O'NEILE, carried unanimously.

The seventh resolution, which defines the constitution of the county committee, &c., was moved by the Rev. Mr. GOULD, and adopted; by this arrangement, the central committee are to be twenty in number, to be chosen by voting papers, to be distributed among the members of the Conference.

It was also resolved, on the motion of the Rev. E. JONES, that the names of donors and subscribers be received immediately; and other formal resolutions having been passed, with a vote of thanks to the chairman, the Conference was dissolved.

THE EVENING MEETING.

In the evening, a public meeting was held at Congdon's Subscription-rooms: most of the gentlemen who had attended the Conference were present, together with a respectable and numerous assemblage of citizens. On the motion of the Rev. J. BIGWOOD,

Mr. DIVETT, M.P., presided; and, after briefly addressing the meeting, called upon Mr. DUNN, the Secretary of the British and Foreign School Society, to address the meeting.

Mr. DUNN then moved the following resolution:—

That feeling the importance of education, this meeting approve and confirm the resolutions of the Conference held this day, having for their object the advancement of education in this county on the principles of the British and Foreign School Society.

A considerable portion of his speech was taken up with a statement of the principles of the British and Foreign School Society; but we limit our extracts to his remarks on the general question:—

You are perfectly aware that many strong statements have been made, touching the want of education in this country. Some go so far as to say, that two-thirds of our population are without education; others reduce it to one-half, and others, contrasting our education with that on the continent, tell us in plain terms, that we are the worst educated people in Europe [hear, hear]. On the other side, Mr. Edward Baines, of Leeds, a very zealous advocate of education, and a still more zealous advocate of the voluntary principle, has published a series of letters, stating his views very fully and frankly, contending that education is more generally diffused amongst the people than has been supposed. I wish I could agree with him, but I cannot get rid of the conviction, that in his zeal for liberty, he has sought to make a more favourable impression, than the actual state of the case will admit [hear, hear]. I am convinced, that it is exceedingly difficult to get at the truth as to the educational wants of this country, and the very best-informed are at sea on this subject. An instance of this has come under our notice. In the month of March, in the present year, a number of gentlemen met in West Kent; they held a conference, for the purpose of promoting education in the county of Kent, or rather in West Kent. Prior to the conference, they had sent out schedules for the purpose of ascertaining the wants of that county. After considerable discussion, they drew up a report. They started, as most persons would, by considering what number of the population ought to be at school. They found that in Switzerland, the proportion was one in five; in Prussia, one in six; in Denmark, one in seven; in Austria, one in ten, and so on. Well, on looking to the state of their own country, they perceived, from the report of the registrar-general, that in case of marriages, thirty-three in every 100 men, and forty-nine in every 100 women signed their mark, and from this, they concluded that one-third of the adult population were destitute of the simplest elements of education. Now I am not going to dispute that statement. They then referred to their own county, and they found that twenty-nine per cent. of the men, and forty per cent. of the women, were altogether uneducated. They then analysed the criminal returns, and they found the number of male prisoners to be 2,051, and 459 females; only four males and one female were reported as even reading and writing well; whilst the absolutely illiterate were 811 men, and 229 women; 262 more could read and write imperfectly, and 889 could read imperfectly. The conclusion they came to, was the appalling one, that in this country, the proportion of children receiving instruction did not exceed one in seventeen; that was not a mere guess, but their deliberate conviction, come to after careful examination, that only one in seventeen were at school, and that one-third of the adult population of West Kent were utterly destitute of education, and in too many instances perishing for lack of knowledge. This was most deplorable: they, however, formed a conference, and began the work of education. The first thing they did, was to engage a highly respectable and intelligent man, to visit personally every parish in the district, and to ascertain exactly what was the state of things. After six months' labour, their report has just come out: it is not published. It shows, however, that in West Kent, in four-fifths of the families, the education of children is not continued after they are ten years of age, and that in the other fifth the proportion of the population at any given time at school is twelve per cent., or one in eight. They further remark, that parties in all cases refer to the number of children on the books; it should, however, be stated that the average daily attendance does not exceed more than three-fourths of those on the books, so that as a general rule the attendance at school is not more than nine months in the year. This little pamphlet contains a statement of every kind of school in the fourteen unions of West Kent. In a population of 266,000 persons, there appears to be in the public and private schools 23,785; the proportion receiving public education being one in fourteen, and private education one in twenty-four daily; and instead of being one in seventeen, it turns out to be about one in nine [hear, hear]. Now I do not understand from this statement that in every parish there is sufficient means for receiving education—in some districts education is very freely provided, whilst in others there is absolute destitution. There is still, in fact, a serious deficiency as to the amount; and then, in addition, a very large proportion is scarcely worthy of the name. The result is, that there is actually a great amount of work to be done in West Kent; but there is this feeling about it, that it is just within the limit of possibility to undertake it [cheers]. It is manageable, and can be done if there are hands and hearts ready and willing to undertake it. Now I cannot say the exact state of Devonshire; there are some circumstances which lead one to suppose, that the difficulties in the way of education are greater than in Kent, from the character of the villages; still I think you may take encouragement; it is not so great, it is not so absolute, as to discourage you from all exertion, and make you sit down in despair, and say, We cannot encounter such a gigantic evil. You may overtake the difficulties by a zealous and united effort, and thus confer on the rising generation one of the greatest blessings which it is possible to bestow [loud cheers]. The immorality produced, and the evil effects of continuing to bring up our people in ignorance, is certainly very great. The City Solicitor in London, some time ago, brought the state of juvenile delinquency under the consideration of the magistrates. He at the same time brought up some facts which ought to be known, compiled from the Government returns: he could not go further back than ten years, because previous to that the returns did not specify the age of the delinquents. He found that the number of juvenile delinquents has increased in a much greater degree than those of adults. In 1835 the number was 6,803, or 1 in 490; in 1844 it was 11,348, or 1 in 304. The table shows that juvenile delinquency is increasing in a greater ratio than adult, and that there is terrible neglect somewhere [hear, hear]. Whilst the effect of seasons of prosperity or adversity on the growth of crime is well known, it is worthy of remark, that whilst the last three years show a decrease in the amount of crime, in respect of the whole

population, yet it is in respect of the adult population only; in comparison, the number of juvenile has increased upwards of seven per cent., thus showing, that national fluctuations do not increase this steadily growing evil.

The Rev. Mr. PYER, in reference to the returns they had received from different portions and parishes of the county, said, that according to their calculations, there are some 95,000 children in the county that ought to be at school, whilst there are only some 20,000 known to be at school; consequently, it would appear that there are some 75,000 not known to be at school. Supposing this to be an exaggeration, and that there are some 50,000 not in schools,

Can we find the means of educating this multitude? I should like to try [cheers]. I think we can if we try [cheers], and I see no reason why we should not try. I see no reason why we should not begin at once to try. It may not be possible to educate all this 50,000 at once, or to provide schools in the course of next year. I wish it could be done; but I don't think it is possible to effect the object quite so rapidly as that: the whole may, I believe, be done eventually, and something ought to be done at once [cheers]. Now, the committee come before you with what I take to be a very modest proposition indeed. What do they propose to do? Why, in the whole of this extensive county, with a population of near six hundred thousand persons, they propose to raise, for the purposes of education on the principles laid down to-night—sixty thousand pounds—no, six thousand pounds [hear, hear]—to be raised in the four districts into which they propose to divide the county of Devon—that is, £1,500 for each district. Why, if some one denomination of Christians, in some first or second-rate town in the county were to propose to raise £1,500 or £2,000 to erect for themselves a place of worship, the thing would be done; it has been done—done over, over, and again. Everywhere throughout the county you may see houses of worship studding the land, raised by voluntary exertions—the best exertions after all ["Hear, hear," and great cheering]—raised by a mere handful of the people.

The Rev. Dr. PAYNE supported the resolution. He expressed regret that he could not take a very prominent part in the meeting, from unequivocal symptoms that his voice would certainly break down: but after having resided in this city seventeen years, and being well acquainted with a considerable number of its inhabitants, he had not thought it right to refuse to comply with the request made to him, and say a few sentences expressive of his entire concurrence [cheers]. After all that had been said and written, it was impossible for any one to doubt, that there was an awful and dense cloud of ignorance hanging over our country; and he concurred with the sentiment of one of our best writers, that we must struggle with, and conquer the ignorance around us, or that ignorance and vice would conquer us [cheers]. And though he might differ from some of his brethren, whom he greatly respected and loved, as to whether it could be all done by voluntary effort, they were bound unquestionably to do all in their power, or they could not discharge their duty to God, to their own consciences, or their fellow-men [cheers].

The resolution having been carried,

The Rev. E. JONES moved a resolution to the effect that donations be solicited from all persons friendly to the object. He was convinced that what was wanted was a greater demand for education; and then, if Englishmen were once set going in that direction, there would be no stopping them [cheers]. If, with this six thousand pounds, they could only establish a good school here and there, with a Borough-road master, he was persuaded each school would, in a few years, create half-a-dozen [hear, hear].

The resolution having been carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks passed to the chairman, the meeting broke up.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, December 23rd.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.
DEPUTATION TO SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

Information having been communicated from Edinburgh, that the British Anti-state-church Association deputation intended to be in Glasgow on the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th instant, a few friends of the voluntary principle held a meeting, at which, after full consideration of the subject, they decided upon the arrangements that should be made for the reception of the deputies, and appointed a committee to carry them out. That committee met, without delay, and immediately issued about 180 circulars to the leading friends of the cause, inviting them to a conversational tea-party in the saloon of the Trades'-hall, at seven o'clock, on the evening of Thursday, the 17th. To this invitation upwards of 100 gentlemen responded. The chair was occupied by James Anderson, Esq., who was supported on the right by Mr. Burnet, Dr. Wardlaw, Dr. Robson, Mr. W. Anderson, minister, and W. P. Paton, Esq.; and on the left by Mr. Miall, Dr. Kidston (a patriarch of eighty), Mr. D. Russell, and John Hamilton, Esq. After tea, the members of the deputation explained to the meeting the nature of the Association which they represented, and the object of their visit, and urged upon those present that it was high time for the Dissenters of the empire to commence action, not defensive only, but aggressive—a sentiment with which all seemed deeply to sympathise. An animated conversation followed, in which a number of ministers and gentlemen took part, and which referred chiefly, though not exclusively, to this point—the basis on which any local action should be placed; should it be such as to admit of enlisting in the promotion of the object, the energies of all who will support the British Anti-state-church Association, in the prosecution of its aim—the abolition of all existing establishments; or, should it be restricted to Evangelical Protestant Dissenters? No decision was come to: it was not the place nor the time to decide the question. Its settlement then was not necessary to the furtherance of the objects of the deputation, and, whatever may be the decision of the friends

of the cause here, upon this topic, it will not affect the interests of the general association. The speakers, whichever view they advocated, were unanimous that it deserved the most cordial and energetic support of the Dissenting portion of the British public, and that steps should be at once taken in Glasgow, to enrol, as members of it, as many as possible. From this conviction there did not seem to be one dissentient. At the suggestion of John Hamilton, Esq., a subscription list was opened, and was headed by a contribution of £10 from a Free Churchman. Between £70 and £80 were subscribed. After a very pleasant evening, and, it is hoped, an evening pregnant with good to the cause, the meeting broke up about half-past ten.

On Friday evening the public meeting was held in Dr. Wardlaw's chapel at seven o'clock. On the platform was a large number of Dissenting ministers and influential laymen. The chair was ably filled by W. P. Paton, Esq., who, after a short speech, in which he glanced partly at the righteousness of our cause, and partly at the necessity of immediate and strenuous agitation for its advancement, introduced to the meeting Mr. Miall. His reception was so enthusiastic, that it was some time before he obtained a hearing. He spoke for nearly an hour, and was listened to throughout with deep interest; the feelings which he stirred in the hearts of his audience, frequently finding vent in the manner which seems natural to a public assembly. Mr. Burnet followed, and riveted the attention of his hearers, now by his rich humour and satirical sketches, exciting a general laugh, and now by his powerful denunciations of the system which he invoked the public of Glasgow to join with him to overthrow; kindling in the hearts of all an indignant feeling of monstrous injustice and wrong. For an accurate, but brief report of these speeches, I refer you to the Glasgow papers.

Dr. Wardlaw was the next speaker, and no one could have failed to see that his whole heart is with this agitation. The duty devolved upon him was to express the thanks of the meeting to the members of the deputation, and its earnest prayer for their prosperity, and for the triumph, speedy and complete, of the cause to which their eminent talents have been devoted. This duty he discharged in a manner worthy of himself. An outline of his speech, too, may be found in the public prints. One point, from its importance, demands notice. He referred to the Evangelical Alliance. To that Alliance he is deeply attached; but (such are the sentiments he expressed) no fond attachment to it, however tender—no anxiety for union, however deep—shall keep him from seizing every opportunity of proclaiming the Voluntary principle in all its integrity, and from giving every aid in his power to the Anti-state-church movement. Would that all Dissenting ministers and laymen occupied the same high ground!

Dr. Wardlaw's motion concluded with the appointment of a committee to take steps in support of the British Anti-state-church Association, and to devise means for the advocacy and extension of its principles, especially in this locality. The motion was supported by Dr. King, who begged to be excused from offering any remarks, on the ground of his having received no intimation that he was expected to say a word.

Thus terminated the business of the meeting. The attendance, though not crowded, was large and respectable. The inclemency of the weather, it having rained all day, operated against it. Ladies especially were unable to come out; and, had there been the usual proportion of the female part of the community, there would not have been much more than standing room.

On Sabbath the members of the deputation preached in four of the most influential Dissenting churches—namely, Dr. Wardlaw's, Dr. King's, Dr. M'Farlane's, and Mr. Anderson's. In the evening, in Dr. M'Farlane's, all the passes were filled by those who were unable to procure seats.

It is now time to ask, What has been the gain of this visit? These are—1st. Incitement in the great common cause; 2nd. Publicity to the Association; 3rd. Impressions in its favour; 4th. An immediate contribution of about £100 in aid of its funds, with the prospect of more; 5th. The appointment of the committee formerly mentioned, composed of all the Dissenting ministers in the town who hold the voluntary principle, with the addition of forty or fifty laymen, several of whom are in our town council and our magistracy. These constitute the present gain: to prophesy would be presumption; but, if appearances may be at all relied upon, the future is bright with promise, so far as Glasgow is concerned. The serious, earnest, resolved spirit manifest in the circles of private friendship, as well as at the public meetings, must develop itself in large and devoted enterprises on behalf of the spirituality and independence of the kingdom of Christ. Much more might be said, but this sketch is already too long.—*From our own Correspondent.*

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES.—We have pleasure in announcing that the first of this series of lectures will be delivered at Devonshire-square Chapel (Mr. Howard Hinton's), Bishops-gate-street, *this evening* (Wednesday), at seven o'clock, by Mr. Stovel. Subject:—"The voluntary and compulsory systems contrasted as to their results." We are able also to state that arrangements are in progress for the visit of a deputation to Lancashire; that the agitation of this great question is to be opened by a public *soirée* in Manchester, which is fixed for Thursday evening, January 21st, 1847; and that a local committee of gentlemen is actively engaged in that town in organising the friends of voluntaryism there in favour of the British Anti-state-church Association.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the weekly meeting of this body on Monday (which was thinly attended), Mr. J. O'Connell had the effrontery to call upon Irishmen of all creeds and politics, to lose not a moment in coming forward to join the Repeal Association, which would oppose the repayment of one penny of the moneys advanced under the Labour Act, which were only a part of what was actually due to the country. Mr. O'Connell, after describing the dreadful state of the country, said, he wanted £30,000,000 of money to be lent to Ireland [hear, hear], to be repaid out of the revenues of the country, and not out of the pockets of the landlords [cheers]. He hoped in a few days to have an aggregate meeting of landlords in Dublin, who would not be afraid of their own shadows. He then passed to the secession party, whom he treated with affected contempt. A scene then ensued. Mr. A. O'Neill, amid considerable opposition, declared his sorrow at the failure of the attempt at reconciliation. He proposed that each party should select fifty names, ten of which should be members of the future committee of the Association, and that, of the remaining forty on each side, fifteen should be selected by lot, by which means they would have twenty-five gentlemen on each side to discuss the legal question in dispute [cheers and hisses]. Mr. O'Connell was not going to submit to a monster indictment—to a trial before twenty-five Young Irelanders—before twenty-five tailors all of a row [cheers]. The proposition was a ridiculous one. He (Mr. O'Connell) was sure Mr. O'Neill had no consultation with the Young Ireland party. Mr. O'Neill: Certainly not [cheers and hisses]. Mr. O'Connell: Nor was he a Young Ilander [loud cheers]. Mr. O'Neill: Clearly not ["Hear," and great confusion]. A Mr. J. Smith accused Mr. O'Neill of walking arm-in-arm with Mr. Meagher, which led to a scene of great confusion. Mr. O'Connell said he could not assent to the doctrine that a reconciliation was necessary for the safety of Ireland [cheers]. He did not care a twopenny ticket about the whole of them, or whether they joined or not; and he was determined to reduce their nobles to ninepence [cheers]. Rent, £88 0s. 10d.

SEIZURE FOR CHURCH-RATES.—A correspondent sends us the following particulars of a seizure for church-rates at Worcester:—"Messrs. Hardy and Padmore, (iron foundry), St. Peter's parish, Worcester." Rate, £1 1s. 3d., costs of order, 10s., costs of warrant, 4s. 6d., levying, 3s. 6d.,—total, £1 18s. 9d.—"Mr. Robert Hardy, (private residence), St. Peter's parish, Worcester." Rate, 4s. 3d., costs of order, 9s. 6d., costs of warrant, 3s. 6d., levying, 3s.,—total, £1 0s. 3d.—"Mr. Alderman Padmore, (private residence), St. Martin's parish, Worcester." Rate, 10s., costs of order, 9s. 6d., costs of warrant, 3s. 6d., levying, 3s.,—total, £1 6s. 0d. For the above they took three oven ranges, value £5 10s. 0d., on Thursday, 17th inst. This is the third time these gentlemen have been plundered in as many years. The magistrate who signed the warrant for a distraint upon Alderman Padmore is a Dissenter, and the same individual who went in state to the cathedral when mayor.

OUR PENAL SYSTEM.—Earl Grey is about to vindicate some of the expectations formed of him as Colonial Minister by reforming the system of convict transportation. Transportation to Van Diemen's Land is to be checked; that of males is to be stopped altogether; the migration of female convicts will continue for a time, to restore the balance of the sexes, then to cease; the establishment of concentrated crime at Norfolk Island is to be broken up; the term of convict punishment is to be measured by labour instead of time.

EXTRAORDINARY RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.—Yesterday a simultaneous rise in the price of bread took place throughout the metropolis; the household quality being advanced from 7d. to 8½d., and the best wheaten from 9d. to 10½d. In the market on Monday flour rose 3s. per sack, and it is stated among many of the most experienced bakers, that before the expiration of the week the 4lb. loaf will reach the price of 11d.

THE SMALL DEBTS ACT is to come into operation at one calendar month from yesterday, the 22nd inst.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—Yesterday, the entire bridge was thrown open to the public; the carriage-way is being macadamised, and will be re-opened for the passage of every description of vehicle to-morrow evening.

THE ELECTIONS.—SPAIN.—On the 13th instant the result of 200 elections was known, 160 of which were Ministerial, and 40 Opposition. Amongst the Progresistas returned are Mendizabal, Cortina, Gonzales, and Olozaga.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE BOLTON RAILWAY.—On Wednesday, the express train, which leaves Fleetwood at nine o'clock, got off the rails about five miles from Manchester, and the engine, after running about forty or fifty yards along the side of the cutting in which the accident happened, fell over on to the line, and a first-class carriage was thrown over and smashed. All the passengers escaped without material injury, but the engine-driver was killed, and the stoker had one leg cut off, and a portion of the foot of the other leg. At the inquest held at Manchester on the body of the engineer Allen, the jury in their verdict ascribed the accident to the carelessness of the engineer in driving too fast.

"G. K."—In reply to our Edinburgh correspondent, who writes under the above signature, we beg to say, that the name and address referred to are D. Carr, Esq., M.D., Birmingham.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	1580	1040	360			
Scotch.....						
Irish			9300			
Foreign	870	4720	2850			

Not many buyers of wheat; nevertheless, some business has been done at late rates. More speculative inquiry for Egypt beans.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
 For Eight Lines and under 5s. 0d.
 For every additional Two Lines 6d.
 Half a Column . . . £1 | Column £2
 * All communications to the Editor should be addressed to the office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 1846.

SUMMARY.

A MERRY Christmas to you, gentle reader! if you can appropriately realise the wish. The season invites mutual greetings—why should we withhold ours? Albeit we cherish no superstitious regard for times and seasons, there is a peculiar charm to us in the associations which twine themselves about Christmas-day, and which flower as soon as its welcome light dawns upon our world. We can ill afford to banish the few national holidays that are left to us, and least of all this, the most interesting of them all. Peace be to the memory of him who first suggested the domestic convocations for which Christmas-day has become famous! The family group, once again re-united after a twelvemonth's separation—in many cases, glad because unbroken; and in many, too, pensive because well-loved and well-remembered individuals have been snatched from it—the rekindling of dormant or overlaid affections—the glad interchanges of friendship—sighs breathed out in gentle unison, or mirth making the most of one day's sunshine in the common drudgery of laborious life—the old salutations, ceremonies, games, and even viands—the troop of recollections which rush in, and of anticipations which peer out—in a word, the poetry of the day, in all its varied stanzas, festive and plaintive, gay and grave—all have their attractions for us. We should be sorry to part with them. It may be a weakness, and if so, we honestly confess to it—we have no wish to depose this day from its supremacy over its red-letter kinsfolk. Real pleasure, then, have we in wishing our readers, all and every, such an enjoyment of Christmas as may best become them—and earnestly do we commend to them, that they enhance their own gladness by dispensing it with a liberal hand to their poorer neighbours.

It would seem really somewhat misplaced—quite at variance with the festivity and enjoyment of the season—when even the poor man treats himself, or is furnished by the liberality of his more wealthy neighbours to those bounties of Providence to which he is, throughout the live-long year, a stranger—to disturb the general complacency which the present appearance of abundance is apt to create, by gloomy forebodings of future scarcity. But the subject has too important a bearing on the interests of all, both rich and poor, to allow of trifling or delay. If there is a certain prospect of a deficiency in the supply of food, the country cannot be too soon made aware of it. The knowledge of the evil is, in this case, half its cure. Forewarned is forearmed. In our last number we offered a few considerations, pointing to the probability of a season of scarcity and high prices, which subsequent information, both from America and from the continent, fully confirm. A considerable portion of the surplus produce of the United States has been exported to other countries. For the present year, up to Nov. 25, the whole shipments from New York to this country were 191,000 barrels of flour, 46,875 quarters of wheat, and 43,000 quarters of Indian corn, of which nearly the whole has arrived, and has either gone into consumption, or been *re-exported*. And although nearly the whole of the imported Indian corn has been consumed in Ireland, the demand for further supplies is still so pressing, that the low qualities of wheat have advanced at least eight shillings a quarter during the last fortnight. In ordinary years the imports into Liverpool from the sister country greatly exceed the exports. This year, the balance is quite the other way; and thus, England, instead of receiving large contributions to her own resources from Ireland, is now called upon, from her own insufficient stock, to supply her unfortunate neighbour. The only countries to which we can look for any large supply to meet our deficiency are the United States and the south of Russia. The severe weather has closed the navigation of the canals and rivers of the former, and shuts out the hope of obtaining further supplies until April or May. The ports of the Black Sea contain large stocks of grain, but France has taken a large quantity; the great bulk of the remainder is destined for the Mediterranean ports, while our navigation laws prove an obstacle to the importation of the little that is left. We thus find our own foolish restrictions make us incapable of helping ourselves. Our four-shilling duty on wheat, and absurd navigation laws, place us at an immense disadvantage, in going into the markets of the world. "At the present moment," says the *Economist*, in a pains-taking article on this subject, "the prices of wheat at Havre, Antwerp, and London, are as nearly as possible on an equality. But, supposing an American ship touching at Cork for orders, finding that in those three ports the price is the same, but that in London he must pay a duty of 4s., while in Havre or Antwerp he enters *free*, he could not hesitate where to take his cargo. The maintenance of our duty is, so far, a premium offered to the French and Belgian markets." Our contemporary also strongly advocates the admission of sugar to be used in breweries, on the

ground that it would not interfere with the present excise regulations—would be of itself rather advantageous than otherwise to the revenue—and would, in truth, involve all the advantages, by discouraging the use of grain, of which we are deficient, and throwing a larger consumption on sugar, of which the stock is abundant and increasing, and of which the price has recently considerably fallen. We have, during the last few months, lost much of the opportunity of improving our condition; let us not now remain inactive, while we have the chance of bettering it. The legislative measures necessary to that result would, we are sure, if proposed by Government, meet with little, if any, opposition from any powerful party in the Legislature; and, in spite of Lord John Russell's aversion to agitation, a little more pressure from without would, we imagine, induce him to repair the blunder he must now feel himself to have committed, in refusing, two months ago, to suspend the duty on grain.

Parliament is appointed to meet for the despatch of business on the 19th of January, and, at length, confident statements are made as to the measures to be proposed by Government for the relief of Ireland. The *Daily News*, of Saturday, gives an outline of a series of plans said to have been agreed upon by Ministers, of which the following are the principal heads:—

"The action of the poor-house will be put forward as a check, to fling back the loiterer, who could find employment elsewhere, from burdening relief-funds; but the Warden of the Poor [equivalent to the English Overseer] will be empowered to give relief in all cases to the infirm and the really destitute."

"Emigration will be provided. Not only will depôts be formed at home, but active and beneficent preparations will be made in the Colonies, so as to ensure those who wish to emigrate against all the risks of the poor, unprovided, and ignorant emigrant."

"The peculiarity, however, of the present plan of emigration is, that it will be coupled with the choice of settlement at home."

"A commission will be issued for the purchase of waste lands; which are to be enclosed, reclaimed, cultivated, and then offered in no large lots for sale, with such facilities as will render them a premium for industry and frugality, and the foundation of a class of Irish yeomen."

"There are other lands, not waste, that are but half-cultivated, and which, in the hands of the poor, encumbered, embarrassed landlord, are as profitless to the community as the bog or the heath. To render these more available, liberty will be given to sell entailed property."

"Government will be empowered to proceed to the sale of a portion of those estates indebted to Government which have not paid up the interest or instalment agreed upon."

The *Morning Chronicle* takes exception to some part of the scheme, but confirms the accuracy of its more important features. That some measure will be proposed to reclaim the waste lands of Ireland, and make the landlords responsible for the present enormous outlay in providing employment for the people, is universally believed. This impression is borne out by the recent decision of the Irish Executive, empowering landed proprietors to sell portions of entailed estates, or enable Government to do so, in case arrears accumulate, for advances made from the Treasury for improvements. We await with anxiety, but confidence, the official announcement of the Ministerial intentions. The exigency of the crisis requires the application of bold and comprehensive remedies; and the firmness hitherto shown by Government in dealing with Irish landlords, warrants us in assuming, that they will not disappoint the expectations of the country.

During the last week an important meeting has been held at Exeter, to ascertain the deficiencies of the means of education in the county of Devon, and resolve on measures for supplying it. An interesting report of their proceedings will be found elsewhere. It was resolved to raise a sum of £6,000 for the establishment of schools, founded upon the basis of the British and Foreign School system. Upon the question of receiving Government aid, the Conference was divided in opinion, but it was finally decided to leave it an open question. The discussion on this point excited much interest; but we regret to find that many staunch friends of voluntaryism in religion were disposed to waive their objections to State interference with education. Such meetings are, however, of great importance at the present time. They will serve to bring out before the public the actual requirements of the country, and to prove that the friends of education are determined to spare no sacrifice or exertion in providing education for the masses. It is not very likely that Parliament will find opportunity to consider any scheme of national education during the next session, and the postponement of the question will give the supporters of the voluntary principle abundant opportunity of taking such measures for the extension of popular education, as will render the interference of the State impossible and unnecessary.

A keen contest is going on in the City Parliament, which holds out the prospect of a reform of that standing disgrace to England—the corporation of the city of London. The aldermen have become alarmed by the proposition of a measure for widening the basis of the municipal franchise; and still more so, at the intention of the Common Council to control their extravagant expenditure of the corporation funds. The facts of the case appear elsewhere. Now that public attention is aroused to the subject, we trust that the citizens of London will not be satisfied until the corporation of London is placed upon the same footing as every other municipal institution throughout the country.

"THE FRETTING LEPROSY."

THE letter of Mr. W. Sharman Crawford to Lord John Russell, which appeared in our last number, will supply to every thoughtful mind materials for serious and profitable reflection. We are not disposed to discuss with him, at the present moment, the remedies he proposes to apply to the ills of Ireland. That they are searching in their own nature, that the proximate effects of them would prove beneficial, and that they carry upon their very front striking evidence of his own disinterestedness and love of justice, few of our readers, we apprehend, will be inclined to gainsay. Whether the principle they involve has been approved by experience, and whether, in its more incidental and remote developments, it has not uniformly created more mischiefs than it has cured, is another question; and one upon which, as we have said, we have no present intention of entering. We have never made a secret of our views on this head. We have propounded them more than once—we shall, probably, have frequent occasions hereafter for explaining and enforcing them. But just now, our thoughts start in a different direction. They are intent upon seizing and securing the instruction which the passing hour presents—and we verily believe that the social condition of Ireland in this peculiar crisis of its history is pregnant with facts and conclusions wonderfully adapted to illustrate the downward career of injustice, and thereby "to justify the ways of God to men."

We read, in the pages of sacred story, of "a fretting leprosy in the house," which no observances could purge—a leprosy breaking out afresh "in hollow streaks, greenish and reddish," even after the infected stones had been removed, and the mortar "scraped away," and which could only be destroyed by "breaking down the house, the stones of it, the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house." A moral leprosy seems to cleave to the social edifice, as now existing, in the sister isle. The landed estates are all tainted by blood and violence. They who inherit them inherit likewise the retribution due to the injustice and cruelty by which their forefathers obtained them. A curse has attached itself to the property, seized upon in defiance of all law, human and divine, down to this very hour. Again and again the lurking plague has broken out—now in one shape, anon in another—but always to the deterioration of Ireland's best interests. "The middle-tenant system—the joint tenancy—the cottier takes—the con-acre—the rack-renting—all these practices, the names of which are unknown, and almost unintelligible, to Englishmen, sprang from the reckless conduct of these proprietors" (those, namely, "on whom the *forfeited* estates were originally conferred," and "their successors"); "and hence," continues Mr. Crawford, whose impressive words we quote—"and hence arise all those evils which we now suffer—excessive population in some districts—extended wastes in other (almost contiguous) parts—bad cultivation—bad housing—apathy, indolence, and idleness in the people—want of employment—want of manufactures—in fact, the absence of every element of prosperity."

What a painful, but, at the same time, instructive lesson, does this language lay open for our study! How sure the retribution which overtakes injustice! And it is to be specially noted, that the cluster of evils to which reference has been made, grows by a natural process out of the original act of oppression. The sin and its punishment are linked together by no arbitrary or fanciful connexion. The first has given birth to the last. Confiscated estates handed over by unjustifiable violence to possessors destitute of all right to them but that of the strongest, have generated a succession of reckless, improvident, and absentee landlords. What they have done, and what they have failed to do, may be set down, without mistake, to the mode of their tenure. This cause could not but result in these consequences. The drama, begun in violence, must needs end in misery. The potato-blight is merely the incident which reveals things "as they are"—the flash from heaven which ignites the previously existing train—the Nemesis which appropriately winds up the long tale of Ireland's wrong and woe. The seed of all the mischiefs enumerated by Mr. Crawford was sown long since. Properly considered, we are all, more or less, made to suffer the chastisement, of missionary enterprises prosecuted by fire and sword, in the name, but in defiance of the dictates, of Christian truth. Slowly, but certainly, is that awful mistake of our ancestors producing its intensely bitter fruit. All are suffering, and suffering in proportion to their immediate gain from that folly. The landed gentry in Ireland, Protestant with few exceptions—the proprietors of the soil—are called to bear the brunt of the devastating storm. The body of the peasantry will remain, injured and borne down only in individual and isolated cases; but for the land-owning class there is no hope—no remedy—no alleviation. Their inheritances are being swept away; and the places which once knew them will soon know them no more.

"The fretting leprosy in the house," we are firmly convinced, could never have been removed, either by lapse of time, or by ordinary methods of reform. The taint was too inherent in the system to have naturally worn itself away. It was requisite to break up altogether the existing frame-work of society in Ireland. What man durst not attempt, the Ruler of nations is accomplishing without his aid. Ireland never had a more merciful visitation than this potato-blight. The rude shock which makes her quiver to her centre, was the very thing wanted to bring about a restorative reaction. No legislation could have effectually eased

her of the encumbrance which the present eruption will shake off. No statesmanship could have solved for her the difficulties, which will ere long disappear of themselves. Sickness and pain may be upon her whilst she is casting her old skin—and many an agonising throe it will cost her to detach herself from the outer integument which bound her up to suffering, and rendered utterly impossible the development of her fine resources. But she will outlive the struggle—and she will, in all human likelihood, come out of it, freed from most of the conventional restrictions which, for upwards of two centuries, have prevented her proper growth and expansion.

Be this, however, as it may—and we confess, we look forward with no wavering confidence to Ireland's renovation—there can be no reason why we should overlook the very obvious dependence of the present upon the past. It behoves us to treasure up in our minds every illustration exhibited by the existing crisis, of the mischiefs entailed upon one generation by the oppression practised by foregoing ones. Mr. Sharman Crawford has turned the lesson to the very best account. Nothing can be truer in point of judgment, or nobler in point of feeling, than the rebuke he administers to the members of his own class, in the words with which we shall close the present article:—

"But the landlords of the present day will say, 'We are not to blame for this; it was the landlords of former generations who were the authors of the evil—we are sufferers in common with the rest of the community.' Very true. But if we, the landlords of the present day, have, by inheritance, the estates of our forefathers, and enjoy the rights and privileges attached to the possession of landed property, can we throw off the responsibility attached to their misdeeds? In justice we cannot. I, for one, shrink not from the full acknowledgment of the responsibility. But, again, have the landlords of the present day no account to settle? I say they have; if not for misdeeds of their own, they have neglects of their own to answer for. I admit that they cannot remedy the misdeeds of their predecessors without the aid of the Legislature. But, I ask, have they, the landlords of Ireland, either as members of the Legislature, or in any other capacity, used any exertion to suggest or procure the enactment of any measures for the employment of the people or the amelioration of their condition? The landlords plead that their hands are tied by entails, and that they are oppressed by rent charges and mortgages, the owners of which are not made liable to taxation. Have they sought for any measure of relief? They have done nothing; they have been apathetic, both as regards their own interests and the interests of the people; and now this awful calamity and responsibility comes upon them, without any preparation to meet it."

THE IRISH "FIREMEN-WATERMEN."

It appears to be a settled point in the history of man and his relations, that no great evil shall be cured or good accomplished, till a lesson of severely painful magnitude has been given on the consequences of leaving things as they are. Hence when a lesson of this kind is in the act of rising in the public horizon, is precisely the time for intelligent men to apply themselves to study the evil and its remedies. A subject in point, for instance, is the health of towns. Whoever has watched the proceedings of a dirty man or a dirty animal, may have perceived that there was a certain point of accumulation at which the dirt began to fall off of itself; and at this most unhappy maximum the creature went on, and passed its foul existence. Something like this has been the state of great cities. Myriads of tons of filth, to analyse which would defy the author of the dirtiest piece of writing known to men, are lazily pushing one another forward beneath all the splendour of a great city, with the coy reluctant pace at which the lava of a burning mountain is understood to travel in its later course, and which may be represented in little by the movements of a Cottenham cheese, expanding itself by the pressure of gravity over a continuity of buttery sideboard. Meanwhile at each grate and gutter-hole, for one mass of fever-seed that passes downwards, come up twenty in the subtler form of gas, as compounded in the great laboratory of disease below. And this goes on, till at last somebody strikes out the bright idea, which in the course of a century will probably be reduced to practice throughout Europe, that the river which is an invariable attendant on a great city, might as well be turned once a day or all the day through the world of sewerage beneath, and without doing any damage to father Ocean in the end, might make a clean sweep of all this limbo of unwholesomeness.

Another instance of the same kind, is in the Corn Laws. They might have gone on for ever, if the evil could have been kept down to the occasional starving of a few thousands of individuals who are deprived of all voice in parliament that they may have no voices to complain. But at last the evil reached to men with tongues; and then the tongue-tied came by a prospect of redress.

The last new evil rising in the political horizon, and beginning to frighten men from their property, is the state of Ireland. It is probably destined to clinch the sound notions of political economy which have made their way into the world. What is it that has come to pass in Ireland? and knowing first the fact, how are its consequences to be met so far as meeting may be possible? What has happened then, is this. The food on which the Irish or a large portion of them calculated for keeping soul and body together for the next six months, is gone, vanished, sunk from under them, as much as if every man had had his potatoes under comfortable lock and keeping, and by a wave of Harlequin's wand they had all been found turned into lumps of mud. The position is the same as where some of the richer classes found themselves suddenly muleted of

all the claret they had calculated on from American dividends. If claret was a necessary of life to them, their case was hopeless, unless they could find somebody to give them some. To tell them to work and get more, may be accomplished at some time, but not now; and in the mean time they go claret-less. If a man has had his pocket picked of his six months' dividends, there is no use in advising him to live upon the next. Words can bring no relief. Conacre and middle men may have had much to do with bringing the Irish into their present position; just as bad management may have had much to do with bringing the holder of American bonds into his present case. But conacre and middle men did not make the potato disease, nor will reforming them remove the present peril. The case is like that of a ship at three months' sail from land, where half the provisions and water should unexpectedly be found to have made their way through the ship's bottom. Such cases have happened; and may happen again. And the result can clearly be of only one of two kinds; either the ship's company must make their way to land with the half allowance they have on board, or somebody must help them. Not help them with counsels, or lectures upon economy and the amount to which cheese-parings may be made to swell by a proper system of collection; but help them with substantial casks of food and sustenance, to be paid for, it may be or not, at some future time, but to a certainty to be applied to the bodily use of the sufferers now. Ask all voyagers, from Bligh in his long-boat to the last London party who fell short of provisions in a voyage from Richmond, whether this is not unanswerably true.

But there is an aggravating circumstance in the case of Ireland, which is that there will be nothing like an equal division of the stock in hand, and consequently some will live luxuriously, and for every one that does so, two or three must perish. There is therefore a much sorcerous evil in question than short-commons; it is a question to multitudes of no-commons, which means lying down and being buried by such as may be able.

This then makes an additional reason for looking sharply to the cure, and not trusting to future remedies for the evil which is to kill men now. A good purser would never have a moment's doubt upon his mind. He would ask for no data but the number of casks that came in over the ship's side. He would look most suspiciously on all sympathizers, unless they could answer favourably to the question of whether they were bringing any provisions in their pockets. He would never attempt to blink the fact, that if one vessel was to be relieved from destitution, it must be at some expense and sacrifice on the part of those from whom only relief could come. Any order for repayment on the owners when the peril is over, or any engagement to do work for them as the means of effecting it, may be good in their way; but the *sine qua non* for the present, is meat and the rest afterwards.

The weighty inference from this would seem to be, that the important criterion on the present state of Ireland, is in the returns of what is coming in over the side. Let it be maize, beans, or rye, pig's meat or man's meat, but let it be something that directly or indirectly has living in it. All else is subordinate for the present. It may be a question for the curious, how much a man is benefited by starving orderly and with hard work to keep him out of mischief. But rougher philanthropists will sink this scrutiny, in the inquiry of how much was done towards finally diminishing the lists of death.

Under such circumstances, when it is clear that Ireland's relief must be drawn, so far as it is drawn, through the sides of her neighbours, how perilous is the responsibility of saying that food in England shall continue to be kept out by a tax! The fireman who should throw water from his engine on one side, and keep it from coming in upon the other, would be but a type of the infirmity.

THE QUEEN and the Royal Family left Osborne-house on Friday morning, and arrived in the afternoon at Windsor Castle, where her Majesty will probably remain till the meeting of Parliament.

NEW BARONETS.—The *Gazette* of Friday night contains her Majesty's letters patent conferring the dignity of a baronet on Colonel H. R. F. Davie, F. Currie, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and Antony Rothschild, Esq., in the latter instance, in default of male issue, with remainder to his nephews.

DEATH OF THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS GRENVILLE.—The papers record the death of the Right Hon. Thomas Grenville, once an eminent statesman. He was born in December, 1755; and, in 1782, when only twenty-seven years old, was sent ambassador to the French Court. He entered Parliament in 1790, and in 1794 went to Vienna as Minister extraordinary. In 1799 he went to Prussia in a similar capacity. He was created Chief Justice in Eyre in 1800, and, from that year to 1807, was First Lord of the Admiralty. Mr. Grenville was created a Privy Councillor in 1798. He never was married.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL was held at Windsor on Saturday afternoon, at which Parliament was ordered to be further prorogued from Tuesday, the 12th of January, to Tuesday, the 19th of January; and a proclamation was ordered that Parliament shall, on the said 19th of January, be held and sit for the despatch of business. Viscount Palmerston remained on a visit to her Majesty, and had the honour of joining the royal circle at dinner.

MR. LOCKE, the civil engineer, who recently purchased a large estate at Honiton, intends offering himself as a candidate for the city of Exeter.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN THE COURTS OF ALDERMEN AND THE COMMON COUNCIL.

The following statement will make the existing disagreement, which will in all probability be the cause of material changes in the Corporation of the City of London, intelligible:—

There has been long an increasing party in the Corporation anxious to adapt its institutions to what they consider to be the wants of the citizens, and many who feel that it is nearly useless to labour in their efforts to throw open the Corporation to the whole of the rated inhabitants whilst there are twenty-six aldermen, with all the influence which the magisterial chair gives, unchanging except by death, and irresponsible from the moment of their election. The instant they are elected they become magistrates by virtue of their office; and though, as magistrates, it is essential that they should carry the weight of high and honourable personal character into the chair, yet very painful instances have occurred, in which men, notoriously insolvent, and unable to meet their engagements, have continued to sit in the seat of justice, and to place themselves at the head of their fellow-citizens, bringing the office into disrepute, and the purity of justice itself into doubt.

The question of the freedom of the city, and the propriety of admitting all the inhabitant householders rated at £10 to the freedom without fine, has been much discussed in committee. It has been urged by those who are for throwing open the Corporation to all the resident inhabitants, that it is peculiarly hard to enforce the fine from the retail dealers, and allow the wholesale trader and the merchant or banker to go free, and many of the Liberals have been combating this question; and at length recommendation was carried in the Freedoms Committee in favour of abolishing the fine, and enrolling all inhabitant householders; and that report was entered on the paper of business, to be brought up by Mr. Ashurst, the chairman of the committee.

It will be in the recollection of those who take an interest in City affairs, that the late Lord Mayor (Johnson) determined to pay a visit, with the Aldermen, to Oxford. The ostensible object of this trip was to discharge his duty as Conservator of the Thames; but this formal and expensive outlay had not usually been incurred more often than once in fourteen years. The Common Council objected to this expenditure, no more than seven years having elapsed since a former visit had been paid; and upon a motion by Mr. Anderton, the Chamberlain was directed by the Common Council not to pay the money; to which direction due attention was given by that officer.

The late Lord Mayor, whose liberality is well known, having incurred the expense, immediately gave a cheque for the amount; but it afterwards appeared to the Common Council that his Lordship had given the order, and issued the invitations, and incurred the responsibilities, before Mr. Anderton had raised the objection to the visit. Under these circumstances, the Common Council withdrew their order to the Chamberlain, and the money was paid. The Common Council then prepared a bill to limit this description of disbursement and the granting of pensions, not intending to interfere with those disbursements which fell under their censure as magistrates. The aldermen took alarm at this, and raised the question by a protest, that the Common Council had no power to originate any law; to which the Common Council replied, "Why, we have made laws for ages in this same manner, and you and your legal adviser have not discovered our alleged inability until you found that your influence was no longer sufficient to prevent our seeking to control you in improper outlays of cash."

At the last Court of Common Council (on Thursday) the Lord Mayor refused to put the question for the third reading of bill which had been read a first and second time, upon the ground that the Court of Common Council had no legislative power to originate laws. The Common Council say it is obvious, if such be the case, that all the laws which have been made by them for ages have been originated in error, the Court of Aldermen, under the guidance of the Recorder, have slept upon their rights, and the Court of Common Council, under the guidance of the same Recorder, have been allowed to pass laws which, according to his present view, they had no power to pass. The Lord Mayor has raised the question in a most decided manner, for he has refused to put the question of the third reading of the bill; and, if the Common Council submit to such an interference, it is clear they cannot hereafter discuss any question which the Lord Mayor, for the time being, may think ought not to be discussed.

The Committee of the whole Court of Common Council met on Saturday, and passed strong resolutions, expressing their determination to assert the right of the citizens to control, through the responsible members of the body, the expenditure of the city cash. Sir Peter Laurie supported the right of the Common Council, and was not a party to the breaking up of the Court, by which for the present the Aldermen have got rid of the discussion.

MR. BRIGHT SAFE FOR MANCHESTER.—The weekly meeting of Mr. Bright's Election Committee, on Thursday night, was the largest and most influential that has yet assembled. The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, said that the requisition to Lord Lincoln did not contain the names of 100,—nay, not even 80—individuals who had, at former elections, voted on the Liberal side. A great many electors had not yet been seen, but the result of the canvass already showed a majority of pledges of more than a thousand over the number ever yet polled for a Conservative, and of some hundreds above the number who voted for Mr. M. Gibson at the last election. The Chairman of the sub-committees made reports which seemed to bear out very fully this statement. Mr. Absalom Watkin then moved a vote of thanks to the editors of the various London and provincial papers, for the able manner in which they have advocated the claims of Mr. Bright upon this constituency, and amongst them the *Nonconformist*. The motion was seconded by Mr. J. C. Dyer, one of the oldest reformers in the borough, and supported by Mr. Alderman Brooks, and carried with great cheering.

THE NEW HOUSE OF LORDS.—It was generally expected that their lordships would meet in their new house on the assembling of Parliament, but it is now ascertained that the decorations and embellishments, which are of the most magnificent description, cannot be completed in sufficient time. Consequently the peers will for a short period continue to sit in the present house.

THE DUCAL IDEA.—We understand that no less than twenty watchers are nightly employed watching game on the Duke of Marlborough's preserves around Blenheim.—*Aylesbury News*.

LEAGUE OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.
MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

A public meeting was held in the Town-hall, Birmingham, on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of hearing an address from Elihu Burritt, of America, on the principles and objects of the League of Universal Brotherhood, and also to memorialise Government with reference to the proposed central military barracks in Birmingham, and praying for the adoption of such measures by Government as would tend to promote universal peace. The magnificent building was nearly filled by one of the most deeply-attentive and respectable audiences that ever assembled within its walls. No fewer than about 4,000 persons were present, and though the proceedings lasted from seven till half-past ten o'clock, the interest of the meeting was sustained throughout.

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., having been called to the chair, stated the objects of the meeting, and briefly adverted to the merits. After drawing a startling picture of the horrors of war, and portraying, with his usual felicity of style, the blessings of peace, Mr. Sturge read a letter from Mr. John Angell James, apologising for his unavoidable absence, and expressing an earnest hope that the visit of Mr. Burritt to England might be blessed to the advancement of brotherly love and true happiness.

MR. THOMAS SWAN rose to move a resolution affirming the principle that, "God having made of one blood all the nations of men," it was the duty of all to live in peace; and that, as "all war is opposed to the principles and precepts of Christianity," Christians are especially bound to exhibit the characteristics of universal brotherhood.

MR. BROOKS seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN then rose to introduce Mr. Burritt to the meeting; and, after paying a well-merited compliment to his character and aims, expressed his confident hope that the meeting would give him such a reception as would stimulate him to persevere in his labour of love.

MR. BURRITT, on rising to address the meeting, was received with loud and oft-repeated applause. He began by enunciating again the fundamental principle of the first resolution, and continued for nearly an hour in elucidation of its various features and phrases in detail. Assuming Christianity to be its practical exponent, and the example of Christ the living witness of its truth, he sought to establish the conclusion that no Christian could either be a warrior, or sanction with impunity the practice of the profession of arms. In the course of his remarks he paid a high compliment to the devoted exertions of Mr. Cobden in the cause of free-trade, which he looked upon as the harbinger of universal peace, and then submitted a variety of statistics in proof of the cost, the cruelty, and the wickedness of war. If the League of Universal Brotherhood were generally adopted, wars would thenceforward cease, and men should everywhere dwell in amity. Mr. Burritt, notwithstanding that part of his address was much better fitted for the pulpit than the platform, was listened to with the most marked attention, and sat down amidst great applause.

MR. ARTHUR O'NEIL then moved a resolution, declaring it to be a violation of the law of Christian love to manufacture or sell arms, to deliberately use any commodity known to be the fruit of oppression, and denouncing the proposal of the Government to erect great military barracks in Birmingham or neighbourhood.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. C. PERRY, and carried unanimously.

A memorial embracing these resolutions, and praying the Government to introduce an arbitriative clause into all our treaties with foreign powers, and also to adopt an ocean penny postage, was then adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to Sir George Grey for presentation.

MR. BURRITT then read a fraternal address to the people of France, and moved that it be adopted. He thought it was hopeless to expect from the French Government any amelioration of the war system; but if the French people were once aroused to a sense of its evils, the Government would soon change its tone.

MR. PUMPHREY seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the address ordered to be transmitted for publication to France, and a copy to be presented to the King.

At the conclusion, a good number of pledges to the League were handed in, and a liberal subscription made towards the expenses of the meeting.

HOW DID RAGGED SCHOOLS ORIGINATE?—In the summer of 1837, Richard Johnson, Esq., opened a school in one of the most depraved and thickly populated localities of Liverpool. In a few weeks he found it necessary to rent a larger place, which, being furnished with benches by the Town mission, was also used by that body as a preaching station. The pupils were of the lowest grade in society, and it was with the greatest difficulty that anything like order was obtained. By degrees, however, the school assumed a hopeful aspect, and at length several, whose characters were at first notoriously wicked, became respectable members of society, and continue such to this day. "In due time ye shall reap, if ye faint not."—From a Correspondent.

THE LATE FROST.—The frost which continued with unwonted severity during the whole of last week broke up suddenly on Saturday. The river throughout Friday and Saturday resembled an arctic sea in miniature, the whole surface being covered with masses of flowing ice, in many parts piled up in masses of three or four feet high. The steamers had great difficulty in making their passage, as the floating ice threatened the paddle-wheels every moment with destruction. The Citizen Company laid up their boats on Friday, and, had the frost continued till the present time, not a single boat would have been running in the Thames between Chelsea and Blackwall.

PROGRESS OF CIVILISATION.—Orders have been given for clearing off all the posts, rails, stands, and other buildings of the Manchester race-course, at Kersal-moor, with the exception of the grand stand, which is retained for a Sunday-school.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. THOMSON.
PUBLIC MEETING AT COLDSTREAM.

(From the *Kelso Chronicle*.)

On the evening of Tuesday last, a public meeting was held in the United Secession Church, Coldstream, for the purpose of hearing from the Rev. Dr. Thomson a history of his efforts to obtain the abolition of the Bible monopoly in Scotland, of the establishment of the Scottish Board, and of the operations of the Free Bible Press in Coldstream. The meeting, notwithstanding that the evening was somewhat unfavourable, was numerous and most enthusiastic.

The Rev. WILLIAM LEE, of Horndean, having been called to the chair, spoke as follows:—"I could have wished that some one better qualified to fill it had been called to the chair. I feel not very able at present for much exertion. It is not, however, expected of the chairman of a meeting that he should make a long speech, and I feel that in present circumstances it is quite unnecessary. Had I been introducing Dr. Thomson to one of those large meetings he has lately been addressing in England, I might have needed to explain myself more fully, but here it is impossible that his labours can be altogether unknown or unappreciated.

Dr. Thomson has been cradled among you—he has grown up among you—and now, for nearly half a century, many of you have had the privilege of sitting under his ministry, and I trust not a few of you have greatly benefited by his able, zealous, and successful labours, as your pastor. Although not feeling able for much exertion, I consider I should have been neglecting a sacred and imperative duty were I not to do what little may be in my power, not only to cheer and encourage our honoured friend—whose name coming generations will honour, I believe will honour more than the present age may be disposed to do—but to promote the cause with which he is identified. In his efforts to procure the abolition of the vile monopoly of the word of God, Dr. Thomson has had to contend with difficulties which to most people would have proved overwhelming. He has had to suffer, I may say, persecution for this cause. There was prejudice to be overcome, and interest to be combated. His exertions have been long, laborious, and persevering, and the risks he ran, pecuniary and otherwise, such as perhaps no other man could or would have consented to undertake. But through the kindness of Providence guiding and blessing his efforts, they have been greatly successful. He has been honoured to accomplish a great work. Even in a commercial point of view the result has been by no means unimportant. Perhaps half a million of money has already been saved to the country in consequence of the great reduction in the price of bibles; and you must observe, that not only has this sum been saved, but what is of infinitely greater importance, an immense increase in the circulation of the Word of God has been the result. By his exertions in this great cause, Dr. Thomson has raised himself to an eminence from which it will not be easy to displace him. I regret there should be any who would make the attempt, but there may be, and I fear there are societies or companies who would be glad, for their own purposes, to see him and the cause put down. Dr. Thomson, therefore, needs your encouragement: he deserves it; and I trust you will not be wanting in showing the estimation in which you hold his untiring exertions in a cause which must be so dear to all who love the Bible."

Dr. THOMSON, in a long speech, which was listened to throughout with the most thrilling interest, gave an account of his efforts to secure the abolition of the Bible monopoly in Scotland, of his subsequent labours in the establishment of the Scottish Board, of the operations of the Free Bible Press Company at Coldstream, and of the astonishing results which have followed, not only in cheapening the sacred volume, but in the immensely extended circulation which it has in consequence attained. An official statement from the officer of Excise was read, from which it appears that since the establishment of the Free Bible Press, licenses have been granted for bibles already issued to the number of 405,250, and Testaments to the number of 214,200, besides 52,500 copies of the Shorter Catechism, and 21,000 of the Epistles of Peter and John, besides 185,374 Bibles and Testaments formerly issued by the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation, making in all 912,824 Bibles and Testaments entire, besides copies of Psalms and the Epistles and Catechisms above mentioned.

The Rev. P. MEARNS, in proposing the first resolution (for which, and the other resolution, see advertisement), said—"I do not intend, nor will you expect me, in proposing this resolution, to speak at any length. I may state, however, that this meeting was called at my suggestion. Most of you, I think, must have heard of Dr. Thomson's recent journeys in England. You must have seen in the newspapers, accounts of the meetings he has held, and of the cordial welcome he received. You have also heard, I have no doubt, of the proposal to raise a testimonial to him as a mark of gratitude for the boon he has been the means of conferring upon his country. It may be thought by some, that this proposal ought to have originated in Coldstream. Be that as it may, we feel that, having been originated elsewhere, we should neither be doing justice to Dr. Thomson nor to ourselves did we not do all in our power to forward and promote it. At first it was proposed merely to form a committee to correspond with those already formed in England, or which may be formed elsewhere for carrying out the proposal for raising a testimonial to Dr. Thomson. I thought, however, that many of you would wish to be made acquainted, as far as possible, with the history of the undertaking in which Dr. Thomson has so long been engaged. I was anxious myself to hear from his own lips details which we had but partially learned from the public prints. It was on this account I wished the present public meeting called, and I am sure you will agree with me that the result has fully justified me.

The cheapening of the Bible consequent upon the exertions of Dr. Thomson has saved a very large sum of money to the country, and though this is important in its way, it is not on this account we ought chiefly

to rejoice. The saving of money is of very little moment, indeed, compared with the scattering of the bread of life more abundantly among the people, many of whom were perishing for lack of it; enabling churches, schools, and families, to procure a supply of Bibles which otherwise they should not have been able to obtain. Dr. Thomson has had many dangers to encounter, and many difficulties to overcome, ere he could accomplish the great good he has already effected. As he has gone on to-night, I seem to have followed him in his course. I can fancy him single-handed and alone; he fought against power, and prejudice, and interest, until at last, every barrier cast down, every obstacle surmounted, the bonds of monopoly were broken in his native land, and he obtained for the word of the Lord free course that it might be glorified. It seems still needful that he should watch over the progress of the work. I believe that while he lives no enemy will be allowed to arrest him in his course of enlarged Bible circulation, and I trust that the God of the Bible, who has already so eminently crowned his efforts with success, will be with him to bless him still."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wm. Scott, book-seller, and carried by acclamation.

MR. J. H. DAWSON, in proposing the names of the committee (which was composed of individuals taken from the different denominations in the town), said—"When I think of Dr. Thomson's labours, and when I think of the cause for which he laboured, I take guilt to myself, and I think many others are guilty along with me. I am ashamed when I think of the coldness which was manifested, of the supineness, of the listless and cold indifference which were shown by many, when our venerable friend was straining every nerve to accomplish his great purpose—nay, of the opposition even which was put forth sometimes in quarters from which he ought rather to have expected, and to have received, the kindest encouragement. Dr. Thomson was told by practical men that his scheme was impracticable. He was spoken of by many as an enthusiast, whose visionary plans could never be put into execution. Under discouragements such as Dr. Thomson had to contend with, most men would have sunk. They had but the effect of making him the more eager in his work, and now we see the results of his wise and energetic perseverance. There is no longer a monopoly in the bread of life in our land—it is free to all, and cheap to all. If testimonials are due to such men as Cobden and Rowland Hill—the one of whom has cheapened the means of supplying the bodily wants of the people, and the other provided for the easy transmission of thought and intelligence from the one end of our island to the other, and they are both well worthy of such a tribute—then much more surely is that man entitled to our gratitude who has cheapened the bread of life."

The motion was seconded by JOHN LAING, Esq., and unanimously agreed to.

After thanks had been voted to the chairman, the meeting was closed with prayer. The meeting was a most interesting one, and the speakers were loudly cheered throughout.

MR. ROWLAND HILL.—We understand that the first place Mr. Rowland Hill will visit in his new official capacity will be Liverpool, where we hope he will introduce a few of the reforms so much needed in our post-office.—*Liverpool Albion*.

FIRE AT PENTONVILLE CHAPEL.—On Monday afternoon, between four and five o'clock, Pentonville Chapel was discovered to be on fire. It appears that on one of the pew-openers going into the building, he found the place so filled with smoke, that he was obliged to make a retreat. Upon the firemen entering, they found the flooring burning most fiercely, so that for some time the entire chapel was exposed to great danger of being destroyed; but by tearing up the boards, and cutting away the joistings, they happily succeeded in extinguishing the fire, not, however, before considerable damage was done. The fire originated from the overheating of a flue.

METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS FOR THE POOR.—Mr. Richard Burgess, honorary secretary to the London Diocesan Board of Education, has published a letter to the Bishop of London, proposing a plan for the building of fifty new day-schools, in connexion with the Church, in those parishes on the northern side of the metropolis which stretch from Marylebone to Shoreditch, containing a population of 505,743 persons. The Bishop of London has contributed £50 to the object.

TAHITI.—Memorials to Lord Palmerston are still being numerously signed and forwarded, to request him to use his official influence on behalf of the persecuted inhabitants of Tahiti. In reply to one from Ramsden-street Chapel, Huddersfield, Lord Morpeth sent the following acknowledgment:—"Office of Woods, &c., Dec. 7, 1846. Sir,—I shall be most happy to call the attention of Lord Palmerston to the statements of the memorial you have transmitted to me. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, MORPETH.—Rev. R. Skinner."

TEN HOURS BILL.—It has been resolved to hold a conference of delegates at Manchester, on the 27th inst., to devise means for carrying on the agitation, and to raise funds for that purpose. The operatives and their friends have spent not less than £30,000 in agitation, and it has been resolved to make an early appeal to the public.

AMERICAN SLAVERY.—Owing to the severe indisposition of Mr. Douglass, of Maryland, U.S., the fugitive slave, he will be prevented lecturing in Leeds next week, as expected, but hopes to do so very shortly.—*Leeds Mercury*.

SUNDAY TRAINS.—The Town Council of Edinburgh, at their meeting on Tuesday last, adopted, by a great majority, Mr. C. B. Tait's motion to oppose the new bills for which the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company are applying to Parliament, unless the company resume the running of the Sunday morning and evening trains.

THE COBDEN NATIONAL FUND.—Up to Tuesday evening, the total amount received was £77,976.

LITERATURE.

Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the Epistle to the Romans. By the Rev. ALBERT BARNES. Reprinted verbatim from the Ninth American Edition. Revised and corrected by the Author, and edited by the Rev. INGRAM COBBIN, M.A. London: William Tegg and Co., 73 Cheapside.

THE Epistle to the Romans is the most difficult of all the epistles for the biblical scholar to handle. But we fully agree with the editor of this edition of Barnes's notes, when he says that the author "has evinced great piety, and skill, and judgment, in his mode of dealing with his subject." We have formed a very high opinion of this Commentary, and Mr. Cobbin's edition is in all respects to our mind. It is respectable in appearance, and extremely moderate in price. The size is convenient, and the type and paper good.

1. *Four Letters to the Rev. E. B. Elliott, on some Passages in his "Hore Apocalyptic."* By the Rev. Dr. CANDLISH. London: J. Johnstone.

2. *The Principle of Free Inquiry and Private Judgment, and its Importance at the Present Time.* By Dr. CANDLISH. Fifth Thousand.

THE work of Mr. Elliott possesses such great merits, that it is to be deeply regretted that it should be disfigured by some views and interpretations that are not merely fanciful, but radically unsound and pernicious. Some of these—principally ecclesiastical—Dr. Candlish meets with courage and courtesy. Though he does not reach our mark on some questions, in his controversy with Mr. Elliott he does good service to some of our most cherished principles. His letters, as also the sermon on free inquiry, are marked by the doctor's intelligence, vigour, earnestness, and copiousness.

The Telegraph of the Gospel. By J. R. BALME. London: Hamilton and Adams, Paternoster-row.

THE title of this little book is, in our opinion,objectionable, and calculated to mislead many persons as to the character and tendency of the work. It savours too much of the Hyper-Calvinist school. Until we read the book we were half disposed to throw it on one side, as containing only that sort of trash which is ordinarily found in tracts and pamphlets that pass before the public under cognomens of this description. We were, however, upon reading the author, most agreeably disappointed. He propounds comprehensive and practical views of truth. His little work contains a great deal of pious and useful matter, presented in a form at once simple and attractive. We wish it may have an extensive circulation, for we believe it is adapted to do much good. We cordially recommend it to the Christian public.

Letters on Various Subjects. By the Rev. JAMES CAUGHEY, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, United States of America. 3 vols. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

MOST of our readers have heard of Mr. Caughey, who spent several years in this country, during which time he states he preached incessantly, and was the means of converting many thousands of souls. We must be permitted to express no opinion upon his proceedings, but merely a hope that his estimate of the success attending his labours may be borne out by the trial which is to try every man's work. That he is a man of earnest soul, and vigorous understanding, intent supremely on doing good, is abundantly evident from these letters. To criticise, or even mention their contents, is impossible. They contain almost every variety of matter; personal experiences, travels, accounts of revivals, disquisitions on important religious subjects, &c., &c., fill their pages. Without committing ourselves to an indiscriminate approbation, we do not doubt that they will interest and edify a large class of readers—especially those who have received good at the hands of their author.

Lectures on the Acts of the Apostles. With an Appendix, in continuation of the Inspired History, by a Sketch of the Revelation. By JAMES BENNETT, D.D. pp. 473. London: John Gladding.

DR. BENNETT is a writer of sterling worth. His learning, acute intellect, and condensed style, qualify him to be an effective teacher of Christian truth. Sometimes he gets too fast to a conclusion, takes too limited a view of truths and principles, and sacrifices popular intelligibility to the charm of antithesis; but there is a weighty sense, and various putting, about his works, that make them precious to those who seek substantial instruction, and prefer things to words.

The present volume is a sequel to the author's "Lectures on the History and Preaching of Jesus Christ," and is strongly marked by the same characteristics. It contains a large body of wise interpretations and important truths; and, as a popular work on one of the most interesting books of the New Testament, will be found of great service to such as desire an intelligent acquaintance with the word and works of God.

Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson, written by his Widow Lucy. To which is prefixed the Life of Mrs. Hutchinson, written by Herself. Fifth Edition. To which is now first added, an Account of the Siege of Latham House, defended by the Countess of Derby against Sir Thomas Fairfax. London: Bohn.

MR. BOHN has not republished, in his valuable series, any work of deeper interest than this, and we thankfully acknowledge our obligations to him for so cheap an edition of so admirable a volume. It has all the charm of a novel and the worth of an authentic history. Containing the lives of two persons of exalted virtue and attainments; describing, with the accuracy of an eye-witness, some of the most stormy and momentous passages in our national history, the civil wars of the seventeenth century; and written in a style which combines, in a singular degree, vigour and flexibility, simplicity and strength, it possesses claims of

the highest order on all who value the finest developments of our nature, care to be acquainted with the annals of their country, and have any taste for truthful and felicitous pictures of manners and events.

As to the present edition, it is but justice to say that it is got up with a care that greatly enhances the value of the work. It contains all the notes and additions of the Rev. Julius Hutchinson, the original editor; the orthography and punctuation, previously in a very unsettled state, has been revised with pains; and chronological dates and references, with a general index, have been added. We rejoice in the thought that the wide circulation of this book must extensively promote a knowledge of most valuable records, and powerfully cherish a sound political, moral, and religious taste. With unusual earnestness we advise its purchase, and thoughtful perusal.

The German Reformation of the Nineteenth Century. By the German Correspondent of "The Continental Echo." London: John Snow.

To those who have been in the habit of perusing "The Continental Echo," it will not be necessary to introduce the author of the sketches contained in this volume. They are written by one who evidently possesses large opportunities of obtaining correct knowledge respecting the important movement described, and brings an intelligent mind and warm sympathy to the task of observation. In addition to "a sketch of the rise, progress, and present position of those who have recently separated themselves from the Church of Rome," we have notices of the "state of Protestantism in Prussia, Austria, Bavaria, and the Prussian Baltic provinces." The work will be found deeply interesting to Evangelical Protestants generally, and we warmly commend it to their perusal.

Youthful Development; or, Discourses to Youth, Classified according to Character. By SAMUEL MARTIN, Minister of Westminster Chapel, Westminster. London: D. Murray, Sloane-street.

THESE discourses are faithful, tender, and to the point. They do not aim at profundity of thought, or originality of illustration; but there is a large class of young persons to whom they can scarcely fail to be useful, from the importance of their matter, the plainness and familiarity of their style, and their particularity of description and appeal.

Lives of Alexander Henderson and James Guthrie, with Specimens of their Writings. Edinburgh.

THIS is one of the issues of the committee of the Free Church of Scotland for the publication of the works of Scottish reformers and divines—a scheme which strikingly illustrates the earnest spirit with which that body is seeking to imbue the public mind with its theological and ecclesiastical principles. The life of Henderson is by the late Dr. Thomas M'Crie, to which are added two sermons preached before the Lords and Commons. The writings of Guthrie, whose life is written by the editor, are two communion sermons, "A Cry from the Dead," being the sermon preached before his martyrdom, and his "Considerations, &c." The work is interesting; and, without expressing an approval of all the views which it contains, we can cordially hope that the noble qualities of the admirable men whose histories are sketched may have many emulators, and that their solemn and faithful testimonies may find obedient attention in these critical and momentous days.

Discourses, Doctrinal and Practical. By the late Rev. JAMES JEFFREY, Greenock. With a Memoir of his Life. pp. 338. Edinburgh: Oliphant and Co.

MR. JEFFREY was a minister of the Relief Church, first at Musselburgh, then at Greenock, of very acceptable talents, which were lost to the church in the fulness of their maturity. The volume of his sermons now before us, though labouring "under all the disadvantages of a posthumous publication," is a creditable production. The doctrine is evangelical, the matter solid, the language perspicuous, and the aim practical. We can recommend it to those who are in the habit of reading sermons with a view to spiritual profit.

A Sabbath Memorial of Gravesend. London: Aylott and Jones, 8, Paternoster-row.

THIS memorial consists of twelve sonnets of tolerably smooth versification, and of very pious and devotional sentiment.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The American Board of Missions.—The number of the missions, connected with this society, is twenty-six, embracing ninety-three stations, at which are 134 missionaries, ten of whom are physicians, five physicians not ordained, seven schoolmasters, seven printers and bookbinders, and fourteen other male and 175 female assistant missionaries—in all 342 labourers sent forth from America; associated with whom, or at out-stations under their care, are twenty native preachers, and 132 other native helpers (exclusive of the native teachers of the free-schools sustained by the several missions), raising the whole number of labourers at the missions, and dependent principally on the Board for support, to 494. Gathered by these missionaries and under their pastoral care are seventy-three churches, to which have been added during the last year more than 1500 members, and in which are now embraced 24,824 members.

MARGATE.—Mr. J. Sprigg, A.M., of Ipswich, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation from the Baptist church meeting at Ebenezer chapel, to become their pastor, and enters immediately on his stated labours.

ORDINATION OF DHANJIBHAI NOWROJI.—Yesterday afternoon the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh met in Tanfield, for the purpose of ordaining Dhanjibhai Nowroji as a missionary to India. This young Parsee is

the first native convert on whom ordination has been conferred, and the occasion therefore was regarded as one of no ordinary interest. The hall was crowded with a profoundly attentive audience, and the services were conducted by Dr. Candlish in a peculiarly solemn and impressive manner.—*Edinburgh Witness.*

HACKNEY.—Mr. Daniel Katterns, who has for some time officiated with remarkable acceptance, as assistant minister, in the church and congregation assembling in Mare-street chapel, Hackney, has received and accepted a cordial and harmonious invitation to become co-pastor with Dr. Cox, who has, for thirty-five years, been sole pastor of the church.

MONTEREY.—Mr. J. Lockyer, lately pastor of the Independent chapel, High-street, Ware, Herts, has accepted of a cordial and unanimous invitation from the church and congregation, Ponder's-end, Middlesex, and commenced his stated labours, November 8th.

ISLE OF MAN.—Mr. John Harrison, late of Ovendon, near Halifax, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the church of Christ assembling in Atholl-street chapel, Douglas, Isle of Man, to become their pastor, and entered upon his labours on the first Sabbath in this month.

SPA-FIELDS.—On Sunday, November 29, Mr. T. E. Thoresby, of Bristol, commenced his duties as the minister of the chapel, and preached morning and evening to large congregations.

LAFFORD, DEVON.—A very chaste and substantial Independent chapel (standing in the centre of a walled-in burial-ground), was opened here on the 29th ult., when three sermons were preached by Mr. W. O'Neile, of Withbridge. This place furnishes a delightful proof of the value of Home Missionary labour. There was no collection at the opening, as the whole expense (between £400 and £500) was paid by the church members the night before it was first used for worship.

BILSTON.—Mr. William Guest has signified his intention of resigning his charge over the Independent church, Bilston, in consequence of ill health.

MAIDEN NEWTON, DORSET.—Mr. Thomas Denny, in consequence of increasing age and infirmities, has resigned his pastoral office in connexion with the Independent church and congregation, Maiden Newton, Dorset.

HAMBURG.—Mr. James Smith, B.A., of Rotherham College and Glasgow University, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the English Reformed church in this city, and purposes entering on his charge at the close of the University session in May next.

SPALDING, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—The new chapel recently erected in this place, containing about 350 sittings, was opened for divine worship on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Mr. J. Aldis, of Maze Pond, London, preached in the morning, and Mr. J. Holland, of St. Ives, in the evening. Several ministers took part in the devotional service. A spirited and interesting meeting was held in the afternoon, when the principles of religious liberty were advocated and defended. G. G. Day, Esq., occupied the chair, and introduced the subject in a most excellent speech. Messrs. Holland, Davis, and John Leigh, Esq., of St. Ives, and Mr. J. Lewis, of St. Neots, addressed the assembly. A public dinner was provided by friends in connexion with the congregation, in a barn belonging to T. Howkins, Esq., a member of the church, which was fitted up for the purpose. Upwards of 110 persons sat down on the occasion. Tea was served in the chapel and vestry for about 250 persons. On the following Sabbath, Mr. J. Crofts, of Ramsey, preached three suitable and profitable sermons. The total amount collected was £47 10s. The entire outlay in building the chapel and improving the premises will be, when completed, about £570. Upwards of £470 has been already collected. Ten gentlemen present at the meeting kindly promised to give one half of the remaining sum required, if the Spaldwick friends would subscribe or collect the other half within twelve months from that day. It is confidently believed this will be done by the month of June, 1847, when the anniversary of laying the foundation will take place.

THE FAMILY COMPANION.

THE SNOW STORM.

BY R. W. EMERSON.

Announced by all the trumpets of the sky
Arrives the snow, and, driving o'er the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight: the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river and the heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's end.

The steed and traveller stopped, the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
Around the radiant fire-place, enclosed

In a tumultuous privacy of storm.

Come, see the north wind's masonry.

Out of an unseen quarry evermore

Furnished with tile, the fierce artificer

Curves his white bastions with projected roof

Round every windward stake, or tree, or door.

Speeding, the myriad handed, his wild work

So fanciful, so savage, nought cares he

For number or proportion. Mockingly

On coop or kennel he hangs Parian wreaths;

A swan-like form invests the hidden thorn;

Fills up the farmer's lane from wall to wall,

Maugre the farmer's sighs, and at the gate

A tapering turret overtops the work.

And when his hours are numbered, and the world

Is all his own, retiring, as he were not,

Leaves, when the sun appears, astonished Art

To mimic in stone structures, stone by stone,

Built in an age, the mad wind's night-work,

The frolic architecture of the snow.

The *United Secession Magazine* and the *Relief Journal* are henceforth to be united, and denominated the *Secession and Relief Magazine*. This arrangement is to take immediate effect; this organ of the United Church is also to be published at a lower price than formerly.

A BLOW AT ROMANCE.—The Lancaster and Carlisle railway, which has just been opened throughout, constitutes the route to the far-famed Gretna; and if the electric telegraphs should be adopted by the directors of that line, eloquence will become almost impracticable.

The French government is reducing the number of newspapers it maintains, on account of the enormous cost.

A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* recommends Egyptian beans as a nutritious article of food. The American beans are equally wholesome, and are free from dirt and weevils, which the Egyptian beans never are.

The first regiment of Tennessee Volunteers in Mexico, numbering originally 1,000 men, has been reduced by sickness to 400. There's "honour" for you!

A white lady has recently married a negro preacher at New York. This is an advance.

Father Mathew daily serves the poor of Cork with excellent soup and bread at his house.

A method of mitigating pain in surgical operations by the inhalation of certain ethers has been discovered in America, and it is said that successful experiments have been made.

To what town should incorrigible scolds be sent?—To Shrewsbury.

The *Church and State Gazette* re-asserts that the *Morning Post* will fall into the hands of the Roman Catholics. The *Post* re-asserts that the statement is impudently false.

"Received by lightning—printed by steam!" is the stereotyped head of the telegraphic news in the *Buffalo Courier*.

The general re-introduction of flax-cultivation into Scotland is exciting great interest in Aberdeen, Forfar, and other parts.

The rite of suttee has been prohibited in the Rajpoot state of Jeypore, by a unanimous vote of the regency.

WITHERING INFLUENCE OF MOCKERY.—There is nothing which so cramps every flight of the soul as the mocking doubt of all that is unusual and elevated. This necessarily begets falsehood, or (what is as bad) that hard pride which contemns public opinion. Offended earnestness, which can never tolerate or forget frivolous and empty jests, avenges itself on folly and inanity by assuming an attitude of haughty defiance.—*La Motte Fouqué*.

The *American Sun* reports that a meteor, apparently as big as the sun, fell in presence of a whole village, one evening in November, at Lowell, about two hundred yards from the spectators. On the spot where it fell, they found a mass of fetid jelly, four feet in diameter, and 442 pounds in weight.

In an argument before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, on the 11th inst., Lord Campbell stated that, within the last four years, one French court had decided that a meteoric stone belonged to the lord of the soil on which it fell, and another that it was the property of the finder. Lord Brougham inquired if no one put in a claim for the man in the moon!

The examination of the luggage of passengers coming into France by the railroad from Belgium has been abolished by the government.

An Irish peasant, on a small ragged pony, was floundering through a bog, when the animal, in its efforts to push on, got one of its hoofs into the stirrups. "Arrah, my boy," said the rider, "if you are going to get up, it is time for me to get down."

It is remarked, in allusion to the penitence of Potter, who was lately executed at New Haven, U. S., that "as soon as he had become fit to live they hanged him."

The clerks in the most crowded shops in three of the streets of New York have recently succeeded in getting their masters to close every evening at eight o'clock. The way they did it was by addressing a circular "to the ladies," soliciting their intercession with the employers; who, of course, could not, on such entreaty, do otherwise than give consent.

A CHANCELLOR'S NOVEL-READING.—Thurlow became, in his retirement, a great reader of novels; and in one instance, so interested was he in the plot, that he despatched his groom from Dulwich to London, after ten o'clock at night, for the concluding volume, that he might know the fate of the heroine before trying to go to sleep.—*Lord Campbell*.

A trial is stout to be made at the cemetery of Mont Parnasse, Paris, for the purpose of preventing premature interments. A *salle des morts* is to be established, in which all bodies are to remain, under the eyes of a scientific commission, for twenty-six hours before they are buried.

Mr. O'Connell has allowed his tenants a reduction of 50 per cent. on their rents.

DICKENS'S NEW CHRISTMAS BOOK.—We understand that the first impression of the "Battle of Life," consisting of 20,000 copies, was speedily subscribed for by the trade, and that another 20,000 have been printed. Some of the larger publishing firms took their 500, 1,000, and even 2,000 copies of the book. Such is the value of a good name. The tale itself certainly does not come up to the anticipations that were formed of it.

In many parts of the country, next Saturday will be observed by merchants and tradesmen as a holiday.

A NEW CLAIMANT TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE NEW PLANET.—A writer to the *New York Tribune* states that the new planet was discovered by the patient of a mesmeriser in that city last March.

A rival to *Punch* has been set up in New York, under the name of *Yankee Doodle*. The artists are principally, Mr. Martin, son of Mr. John Martin, and Mr. Clarke, a nephew of Lady Morgan—both English! One main objection of its satire is "the Sovereign People."

A NEW VIEW OF WEST INDIAN EMANCIPATION.—It may be useful to inquire, what have been the doings of the emancipated negroes in the West Indies? In connexion with a return lately furnished to the British Government, as to the number of emancipated negroes who have become freeholders, &c., in British Guiana, is appended a list of estates which they have purchased either in partnership or association. From this list we extract the following instances:—"Perseverance Estate—470 acres, purchased by 63 labourers in association for 5,000 dollars; and 250 acres, purchased by 109 labourers, for 1,715 dollars, in the same manner. Littlefield Estate—500 acres, purchased by 12 labourers in partnership for 9,000 dollars." These are only examples from a list extending over five large foolscap sheets of paper. From the fact gathered from them, we see no cause to doubt the wisdom of these enfranchised blacks. They have even set an example to the working classes of the whites. In a country where little labour is required for the sustenance of life, they appear determined

to discontinue the oppressive system of overworked hired labour. This they effect by becoming freeholders through co-operation, in association, in partnership. In all this there is no lack of wisdom. In all this the image of God in ivory might take a lesson from the image of God in ebony.—*People's Journal*.

FIFTEEN SOUS A LINE.—In a case recently before one of the law courts, it was shown that the celebrated Alexandre Dumas received fifteen sous a line (about sevenpence halfpenny) for a romance written for the *Patrie*, one of the daily newspapers. The great man, it appears, had engaged to contribute a romance of 25,000 lines, but only supplied about 17,000 lines, though he received payment for the whole. It was to get back the amount that he had pocketed, above what he was entitled to, that he was dragged before the court. Payment by the line for romances is unknown in England; but it is common enough in this country, especially among the most popular authors.—*Literary Gazette*.

INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF TEA IN IRELAND.—The consumption of tea in Ireland has enormously increased. It is chiefly attributed to the greater use of corn, and flour, and dry food, which demand diluents, which a potato diet does not. Whatever the cause, the fact is so; we have it from one of the first houses in Liverpool. And it shows that one of the consequences of the elevation of the diet of a country from potato garbage to the use of bread and more nourishing meals, is the increased use of tea. The fact, amidst a great number of suggestions, should also teach that of not leaving Ireland out of consideration, when the result of a change in the tea duties is calculated. The Irish will contribute their proportion.—*Daily News*.

LORD THURLOW AS A PATRON.—On one occasion a considerable living fell vacant in the Chancellor's gift, which was solicited by Queen Charlotte, and promised to her protégé. The curate, who had served in the parish some years, hearing who was likely to succeed, modestly applied for the Chancellor's intercession, that, on account of his large family, he might be continued to the curacy. The expectant rector calling to return thanks, Thurlow introduced the case of the curate, which he represented with great strength and pathos; but the answer was, "I should be much pleased to oblige your lordship, but, unfortunately, I have promised it to a friend." Thurlow: "Sir, I cannot make this gentleman your curate, it is true; but I can make him the rector; and by —, he shall have the living, as he cannot have the curacy." He instantly called in his secretary, and ordered the presentation to be made out in favour of the curate, who was inducted, and enjoyed the living many years.—*Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors*.

The *Lancaster Guardian* says, wild geese have not been so plentiful in that district for the last twenty years. The unusual number is supposed by many to denote a severe winter.

GIGANTIC CHRISTMAS CAKE.—We have been favoured with a view of the design and preparations for the Christmas cake which is being made at No. 4, Lower Mosley-street. It will, without exception, be the largest cake we have seen. When finished, it will weigh fifteen hundredweight, be upwards of eighteen feet in circumference, and three feet six inches thick. Its surface will be covered with a preparation of white sugar, as a ground-work, on which will be ornamental groups of flowers, emblematical designs of the three kingdoms. Around and from the upper edge will depend festoons of vine leaves, bearing bunches of grapes. On the top are various devices and figures, among which stand conspicuous her Majesty and her royal consort. From the centre rises a column three feet high, the base of which is ornamented with the star of Brunswick, and surmounted by the crown and cushion, from which is suspended the Union Jack. The ornamental work is by M. Louis Alloumou, who is a first-rate artist in decorations for confectionery; some elegant specimens of whose workmanship we have seen at the Queen's Hotel, which are intended for the Mayor's ball at Stockport, this day. Each purchaser will have a chance of getting one of the fifteen gold wedding rings which it will contain, to each of which is connected a gipsy's oracle. It is to be ready for inspection on Monday.

"DIED OF THIN SHOES," was the verdict of an American jury, on the death of a young lady. Many lives will be saved, this winter, if those who put on thin shoes or dress boots for evening parties will only paste in them, over the entire sole, a piece of flannel. The comfort of this is remarkable, while it adds nothing perceptible with respect to weight or appearance.

JONATHAN AND VICTORIA.—Notwithstanding that the flour and other bread-stuffs sent to England are of the purest quality, nevertheless we learn from the *Batavia Times*, that Mr. Henry Smith, an enterprising miller of that country, sent six barrels of the choicest superfine Genesee flour, manufactured at his mill in Wheatland, Monroe county, to Queen Victoria, and for which, in due time, he received from her Majesty the comfortable sum of three thousand dollars. The flour was put up in highly finished barrels, neatly varnished, enclosed in sacks, and forwarded direct to the Queen at London. The fortunate experiment upon the appetite of royalty seems to have suited her Majesty's palate so nicely, that in addition to the ample remuneration for his first adventure, he has recently received an order direct from London, for three thousand barrels more "of the same sort," which he has promptly forwarded.

A LIVELY LITTLE WIFE.—The new Duchess de Montpensier has appeared at the Académie Royale and the Italian opera. She was "the observed of all observers;" and it is but justice to say that her grace, beauty, and, above all, her extreme youth, pleased every one. If report be true, she is a very lively young lady, rather too much so, indeed, for the staid prudery of the Tuilleries. Some of her sallies are said to have been sharply reproved by the Queen, who is solemnly rigid; and her *escapades* are represented to have displeased the prim princesses of the royal palace. It is even said that her first interview with the royal family was marked by a piece of indecorousness; in embracing the king she accidentally deranged the royal wig, which is somewhat of the largest and the curliest, and instead of making an excuse or saying nothing, she had the irreverence to burst into a hearty fit of laughter!—*Paris Correspondent of the Brighton Gazette*.

MARRIAGES.

At St. Margaret's, Leicester, RICHARD ANGRAVE, Esq., of Leicester, to JESSICA RAWSON, eldest daughter of Joseph DENTON, Esq., surgeon, of the same town.

Dec. 10, at the Old Baptist Meeting-house, Swavesey, Cambs., by Mr. W. Wright, minister, WILLIAM ROSE WRIGHT, Esq., of Huntingdon, solicitor, to MARY DAINTREE, of Swavesey, only surviving daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Daintree, of Fendrayton, in the same county.

Dec. 10, by license, at Devonshire-square Chapel, by the pastor, Mr. J. H. Hinton, JOHN, son of Mr. Thomas WHITE, of Hartlepool, Hants, to MARTHA, third daughter of Mr. T. CHEW, Little Moorfields, London.

Dec. 14, at the Independent Chapel, Hartlepool, by Mr. S. Lewin, minister, Mr. GEORGE ROBINSON to Miss ANN PROUTER, both of

New Stranton. Being the first parties married in this chapel, the congregation presented them with a handsome Bible and hymn-book.

Dec. 15, at the Baptist Chapel, Ridgmount, Beds., by Mr. J. H. Brooks, the minister of the chapel, JOSEPH HARTNELL to MARY WATTS, both of Ridgmount.

Dec. 16, at the Independent Chapel, Malton, Yorkshire, by Mr. George Schofield, minister, Mr. JOHN LINSLEY, of Bath, to Miss ANN COLE, of New Malton.

Dec. 17, at the Independent Chapel, Bishop's Hull, by Mr. John Poole, minister, Mr. EDWARD CHORLEY to Miss MARIA TROTTER.

Dec. 17, at York-street Chapel, Walworth, by Mr. John Reynolds, father of the bridegroom, Mr. HENRY ROBERT REYNOLDS, B.A., of Halstead, minister, to LOUISA CAROLINE, only daughter of Silas PALMER, Esq., of Newbury.

Dec. 18, by license, at the Independent Chapel, Burton Overy, Leicestershire, by Mr. Islip, of Kibworth, minister, Mr. T. FREARSON to ELIZABETH ANN, daughter of Mr. T. ATKINS, of Knoll-house, in the same county.

DEATHS.

Dec. 6, at Polloe-park, after a protracted illness, Mr. JONAS DENNIS, B.C.L., Prebendary of Kerswell, in Exeter-castle, aged 71. Deceased was a man of great erudition, and prided himself on never having shaken hands with the Bishop, nor would he "put his feet under the same mahogany with him."—*Western Times*.

Dec. 8, in the faith and hope of the gospel, Mr. BENJAMIN SKERRITT, an honourable and devoted deacon of the Baptist church, assembling in Union chapel, Cumberland-street, Curtain-road, Shoreditch. "His end was peace."

Dec. 12, at Bourton-on-the-Water, aged 63, Mrs. ANN HANKS, relict of the late Mr. Thomas Hanks, of Little Kissington.

Dec. 12, at Ripley, Derbyshire, MARY, the beloved wife of Mr. W. BLOUNT, grocer, aged 35 years. She had been a member of the Baptist Society eighteen years.

Dec. 13, at his residence, Clapton, THOMAS LIVESLEY, Esq., deeply regretted and respected.

Dec. 14, at Barnsbury-park, Islington, in the 72nd year of her age, MARIA, relict of the late Charles CHUBB, Esq., of St. Paul's-churchyard.

Dec. 17, at his residence, in Woburn-square, JOHN BELLAMY, Esq., late of the House of Commons, in the 73rd year of his age.

Dec. 18, after a short and painful illness, to the profound grief of his family, and amidst the sympathising regrets of an extensive circle of relations and friends, WILLIAM SKELTON CLARKE, second son of George Clarke, Esq., of Little London, near Long Sutton, Lincolnshire.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, December 18.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Ebenezer Chapel, Landover. Perry-hill Chapel, Perry-hill, Surrey. Spa-fields Chapel, Clerkenwell.

BANKRUPTS.

BIONELL, GEORGE COMBERS, Leeds, stock jobber, Jan. 6, Feb. 2 solicitors, Mr. C. Naylor, Leeds; and Messrs. Sudlow and Co. Chancery-lane, London.

BRADSHAW, EDWARD THOMAS, Manchester, sharebroker, Jan. 4 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Johnson, Son, and Weatherall, Temple, London; and Messrs. Bagshaw, Stevenson, and Lycett, Manchester.

BROOK, HENRY, Longley, Yorkshire, clothier, Dec. 28, Jan. 26: solicitors, Mr. Broadbent, Sheffield; and Mr. Tattershall, Great James-street, Bedford-row, London.

DIXON, JAMES, Providence-place, Willow-walk, Bermondsey, millwright, Jan. 5 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Holmes and Son, Bridge-street, Southwark.

DORSETT, WILLIAM SMITH, West Bromwich, iron dealer, Dec. 30, Jan. 20: solicitors, Mr. Hiern, Stafford; and Mr. T. S. James, Stafford.

FARMAN, HENRY, Pulham St. Mary Magdalen, Norfolk, baker, Jan. 12, Feb. 12: solicitors, Messrs. Abbott and Wheatley, Rolls-yard, Chancery-lane; and Messrs. Miller and Sons, Norwich.

NEWBY, JOHN, Leicester, haberdasher, Jan. 1 and 29: solicitor, Mr. Hoskins, Loughborough.

REES, DAVID, Swanside, grocer, Dec. 31, Jan. 29: solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Son, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; and Mr. J. Franklin, Bristol.

SAUERBREY, CHARLES ROBERT, Fenchurch-street, ship broker, Dec. 22, Jan. 26: solicitors, Messrs. J. and T. Gole, Lime-street, City.

SHARLAND, ISAAC, jun., Bath, tailor, Jan. 5, Feb. 5: solicitor, Mr. Mansford, Bath.

TAFFENDEN, THOMAS, Friendly-place, Old Kent-road, tailor, Dec. 26, Feb. 6: solicitors, Messrs. Walsh and Thomson, Lincoln's Inn-fields.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

REAVEY, JOHN, Ayr, merchant, Dec. 23, Jan. 13.

ROBERTSON, GEORGE AGILVIE, and ROBERTSON, THOMAS, Glasgow, iron merchants, Dec. 28, Jan. 18.

SCARTH, JAMES, Glasgow, iron merchant, Dec. 26, Jan. 22.

SIMPSON, ALEXANDER, Esq., Navity, Cromarty, Dec. 25, Jan. 12.

DIVIDENDS.

Thomas Nelson, Love-lane, first div. of 8s. 9d. on his separate estate; at High-street, Nottingham, Dec. 19, Jan. 2, and every alternate Saturday until and including Nov. 20, 1847—Daniel Stanton, Bristol, grocer, second div. of 4s. 11d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, Dec. 21, or any subsequent Monday—Spenser Purser, Cheltenham, draper, first div. of 3s. 7d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, Dec. 21, or any subsequent Monday—William Foster Geach, Pontypool, corn merchant, third div. of 1d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, Dec. 21, or any subsequent Monday—Richard Gill, Richmond, Yorkshire, grocer, first div. of 3s. 4d.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday—Henry Savage, Dorset-place, Dorset-square, apothecary, div. of 4s. 3d.; at 1, Sam-brook-court, Basinghall-street, any Friday—Alfred Wildy, Oxford-street, hatter, a div. of 3s. 10d.; at 1, Sam-brook-court, Basinghall-street, any Friday—John Teasell, Norwich, carpenter, a div. of 2s.; at 1, Sam-brook-court, Basinghall-street, any Friday—William Erick, Hackney-road, baker, a div. of 7s. 3d.; at 1, Sam-brook-court, Basinghall-street, any Friday—Francis Syder, Fakenham and Wells, grocer, a div. of 5s.; at 1, Sam-brook-court, Basinghall-street, any Friday—Michael Emanuel and Henry Emanuel, 5, Hanover-square, goldsmiths, second div. of 3s. 7d., and first and second div. of 10s. id. on new proofs; also a first and final div. of 20s. on the

SEPPINGS, EDWARD, Cromer, Norfolk, victualler, Jan. 5, Feb. 2: solicitor, Mr. Wilkin, Furnival's-inn, Holborn.

MOUSLEY, JOHN, North Brixton, builder, Jan. 4, Feb. 1: solicitors, Messrs. Morris and Co., Moorgate-street Chambers.

SMITH, SIDNEY HENRY, Potters, Wiltshire, innkeeper, Jan. 7, Feb. 2: solicitors, Mr. Wall, Devizes; and Messrs. Peter and Abbott, Bristol.

TANTUM, WILLIAM, Nottingham, tobacconist, Jan. 1 and 29: solicitor, Mr. J. Bowley, Nottingham.

TURNER, CHARLES, Suffolk, grocer, Jan. 12, Feb. 2: solicitors, Messrs. Amory, Sewell, and Moore, Throgmorton-street.

TRICE, WILLIAM, Stepney, grocer, Jan. 4, Feb. 1: solicitor, Mr. Silvester, Great Dover-street, Newington.

VAUGHAN, WILLIAM ROBERT, Bristol, builder, Jan. 5, Feb. 2: solicitors, Messrs. Surt and Gribble, Lombard-street, London; and Mr. R. Cole, Bristol.

WOOD, GEORGE, 50, New Compton-street, Soho, musical instrument maker, Dec. 31, Feb. 4: Mr. Chappell, Quality-court, Chancery-lane.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BROADFOOT, ALEXANDER, BRAND, ROBERT, THOMSON, ROBERT, THOMSON, JAMES, and ANDERSON, ALEXANDER DUNLOP, Glasgow, merchants, Dec. 28, Jan. 18.

INGRAM, THOMAS, Paisley, manufacturer, Dec. 24, Jan. 21.

NICHOLSON, MARY ANNE, Edinburgh, teacher, Dec. 24, Jan. 21.

DIVIDENDS.

David Thomas, Manchester, merchant, final div. of 1*£d.*; at 7, Charlotte-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Thomas Morris and William Woodward, Burmire, drapers, first div. of 12*s.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Dec. 30, and every alternate Wednesday—James Brown, Birmingham, ironmonger, further div. of 2*£d.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, December 30, and every alternate Wednesday—Benjamin Jones, Birmingham, victualler, first div. of 3*s. 4d.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Dec. 30, and every alternate Wednesday—William Wood, of Shrewsbury, wine merchant, first div. of 4*d.* in the pound; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, on December 30, and every alternate Wednesday—Richard Lees, Wolverhampton, ironmonger, first div. of 1*£d.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Dec. 30, and every alternate Wednesday—Edward Edwards Robinson, Wolverhampton, grocer, first div. of 7*d.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Dec. 30, and every alternate Wednesday—Joseph Gibbs, Birmingham, button maker, third and final div. of 1*£d.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Dec. 30, and every alternate Wednesday—Henry Gibbons, Wolverhampton, chemist, final div. of 4*d.*; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Dec. 30, and every alternate Wednesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto for Account ..	93 <i>1</i>	93 <i>3</i>	93 <i>1</i>	93 <i>2</i>	93 <i>3</i>	93 <i>2</i>
3 percents Reduced ..	94 <i>1</i>	94	94	94	94	94 <i>1</i>
New 3 <i>1</i> percent ..	93 <i>2</i>	96	95 <i>2</i>	95 <i>2</i>	95 <i>3</i>	95 <i>1</i>
Long Annuities ..	9 <i>2</i>	—	9 <i>2</i>	9 <i>1</i>	9 <i>2</i>	9 <i>1</i>
Bank Stock ..	207	207	206	207	206	—
India Stock ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills ..	14pm	12pm	13pm	11pm	10	10pm
India Bonds ..	21	—	—	—	—	20

FOREIGN FUNDS.

	Belgian	Mexican	21
Brazilian	86	Peruvian	38
Buenos Ayres	43 <i>1</i>	Portuguese 5 per cents	81
Columbian	16	Ditto converted	38 <i>1</i>
Danish	86 <i>1</i>	Russian	112
Dutch 2 <i>1</i> per cents	60	Spanish Active	26 <i>1</i>
Ditto 4 per cents	92 <i>1</i>	Ditto Passive	5 <i>1</i>
French 3 per cents	21	Ditto Deferred	17 <i>1</i>

RAILWAY SHARES.

	Birmingham & Gloucester	London & Croydon Trunk	21
Blackwall	8 <i>2</i>	London and Greenwich	9
Bristol and Exeter	80	Manchester and Leeds	10 <i>8</i>
Eastern Counties	22 <i>1</i>	Midland Counties	12 <i>7</i>
Edinburgh and Glasgow	75	Ditto New Shares	32 <i>1</i>
Grand Junction	237	Manchester and Birmingham	74
Great North of England	130	Midland and Derby	106
Great Western	77	Norfolk	129
Ditto Half	29 <i>1</i>	North British	36 <i>1</i>
Ditto Fifth	77	South Eastern and Dover	38
London & North-Western	194	South Western	53 <i>4</i>
Ditto Quarter Shares	23	Trent Valley	—
London and Brighton	59	York and North Midland	93

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Dec. 21.

On Friday night the weather suddenly changed from frost to rain and thaw; this has affected the condition of the English wheat, and the trade has not been so brisk as on last Friday, still there was a fair sale at 2*s.* to 3*s.* per qr. over the currency of this day se'n-night, and orders from Ireland for low qualities have been executed at about 3*s.* to 4*s.* per qr. advance. Barley is in better demand at 1*s.* to 2*s.* per qr. more money. Beans in more demand, and white peas are 2*s.* per qr. dearer. The supply of oats is good, and the demand not so brisk as last market day, still the dealers are buyers at 1*s.* to 2*s.* per qr. more money than on this day week.

	Wheat, Red	60 to 68	Malt, Ordinary	60 to 68	60 to 68
New	65 .. 68		Pale	64 .. 70	
White	65 .. 76		Rye	40 .. 42	
New	70 .. 75		Peas, Hog	45 .. 47	
Flour, per sack (Tewn) ..	55 .. 60		Maple	46 .. 48	
Barley	37 .. 39		Boilers	46 .. 52	
Malting	44 .. 47		Beans, Ticks	40 .. 44	
			DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN		
Beans, Pigeon	44 to 48		Wheat	4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	
Harrow	41 .. 42		Barley	2 .. 0	
Oats, Feed	26 .. 31		Oats	1 .. 6	
Fine	29 .. 32		Rye	2 .. 0	
Poland	28 .. 26		Beans	2 .. 0	
Potato	32 .. 34		Peas	2 .. 0	
WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR DEC. 18.					
Wheat	60 <i>2</i> 3 <i>d.</i>		Wheat	60 <i>2</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	
Barley	43 1		Barley	43 5	
Oats	26 .. 25		Oats	26 .. 5	
Rye	42 11		Rye	42 8	
Beans	45 0		Beans	45 10	
Peas	48 7		Peas	49 1	
			AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.		

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 21.

The numbers of home-fed beasts on offer were, the time of year considered, tolerably extensive, and of full average quality. Notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather for slaughtering, the beef trade was somewhat steady; yet, as the condition of the stock was not quite equal to that exhibited on this day se'n-night, we had reduced our quotations 2*d.* per 8*lb.*, the extreme figure for Scots being 4*s. 4d.* The beasts were derived in about equal portions from the northern, and western, and midland districts. With sheep we were fairly supplied; yet the mutton trade was firm. Prime Old Downs readily produced 1*s. 2d.* per 8*lb.*, and at which a good clearance was effected. Calves (the supply of which was small) moved off slowly, at late rates. The pork trade was firm, at last week's currencies.

Price per stone of 8*lb.* (sinking the offal).

Beef

3*s. 4d.* to 4*s. 4d.*

Mutton

3*s. 10* .. 5*2*

Pork

3*s. 8* .. 4*8*

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts. Sheep. Calves. Pigs.

Friday

1,376 .. 3,960 .. 190 .. 210

Monday

1,582 .. 16,230 .. 54 .. 210

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Dec. 21.

Per 8*lb.* by the carcass.

Inferior Beef 2*s. 10d.* to 3*s. 0d.*

Middling do 3 .. 0 .. 3 .. 2

Prime large 3 .. 4 .. 3 .. 5

Prime small 3 .. 6 .. 3 .. 8

Large Pork 3 .. 6 .. 4 .. 2

Inf. Mutton 3*s. 6d.* to 3*s. 8d.*

Mid. ditto 3*s. 10* .. 4 .. 4 .. 2

Prime ditto 4 .. 4 .. 4 .. 8

Veal 3 .. 8 .. 4 .. 8

Small Pork 4 .. 4 .. 4 .. 8

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The cloverseed trade still continues rather dull, and the business done of late has been quite of a retail character. Offers continue to come to hand from France at moderate terms; and, whilst this is the case, no rise can well take place here. Of canary seed the show was quite equal to the demand this morning, and 6*s.* to 6*s.* may be considered extreme prices. In other articles no change occurred.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK WATERSIDE, Dec. 21.—In consequence of the frost last week the supply to this market was very small, yet there was but little demand for small and inferior samples, but the best samples were cleared away at last week's quotations.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Dec. 21.—The demand for Irish

butter during last week was not so active as might have been ex-

pected from the favourable state of the weather. The dealings, how-

ever, were of a respectable character, indicating improvement in

the consumption. The market was firm. Prices: Cork, Limerick,

and the finer kinds, 2*s.* per cwt. over last quotations. Middling

and inferior sorts in limited request, and of nominal value. The

best descriptions of foreign were in fresh sale, and 4*s.* to 6*s.* per cwt.

Hams, without alteration in value, were in moderate request. Lard

more in demand, and 2*s.* per cwt. dearer. The cheese trade

has been more active this week.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from

RESOLUTIONS PASSED at the EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, held at EXETER, Dec. 16, 1846.

E. DIVETT, Esq., M.P., in the Chair.

Preliminary—

I. That the Revs. Messrs. Bigwood and Madgin be the Secretaries of the Conference, who, with the Rev. G. Gould and Messrs. Dymond, sen., and Nichols, constitute the business committee for the day.

II. That the Revs. Messrs. Pyer, Tarbotton, and Thompson, and — Cross, Esq., be the Scrutineers of the ballot papers.

III. That Messrs. Brown, Windatt, Knott, and Fox, constitute the finance committee.

IV. That the rules submitted by the business committee be adopted.

N.B. The above had a reference to the proceedings of the day only.

The Report having been read,

Resolved—That the Report now read be laid on the table.

The questions being read *seriatim*,

It was resolved—

I. That this Conference, deplored the inadequacy of the present means of general education in Devon, resolves that it is a duty binding upon all who would promote the real interests of their country to endeavour to diffuse the blessings of education.

A paper by A. Brewin, Esq., having been read,

Resolved—That the paper now read be laid on the table.

II. That the education provided be on the comprehensive principle of the British and Foreign School Society.

III. That the present deficiency of educational means in this county shows the inadequacy of merely local efforts for the spread of education; and, therefore, the Conference recommends that a County organisation be formed, to encourage and strengthen local efforts.

IV. That a Treasurer and two Secretaries, and four District Boards of five members each, to be appointed by this Conference and their officers constitute the County Committee, and that its functions be—

1. To collect and distribute funds in aid of local efforts.

2. To divide the county into districts for educational purposes, a point which the Conference feels to be of the greatest importance.

3. To point out suitable places in such divisions for establishing schools, and endeavour to promote local efforts for the purpose.

4. To appoint efficient inspection over the schools they assist.

5. To recommend suitable plans of instruction.

6. To obtain and diffuse educational statistics.

7. To call an annual meeting, and publish an annual report of their proceedings, and of the state of education in the county.

V. That application be made to this County for donations and subscriptions towards forming a fund, of at least £6,000; that donations be payable either in one payment, or in four annual instalments; and that they be appropriated either to general or local purposes, according to the wish of the donor. That such general fund be employed—

1. In defraying the expenses connected with the operations of the county committee.

2. In making grants to aid in procuring school-rooms.

3. In helping schools to support teachers.

4. In assisting to train up young persons as teachers, that in every case in which grants are made they shall only be as helps to local efforts.

VI. That the consideration of the Sixth question be adjourned.

VII. That the Treasurer and two Secretaries for the county committee, and the four district boards of five members each, be now appointed, who, with their officers, shall constitute the county committee. Each district board shall be empowered to increase their own number to twenty each, including their officers. That each district committee annually appoint five of their number to form (unitedly) the county committee, which shall elect its own Treasurer and Secretaries, subject to the approval of the annual meeting.

VIII. That the names of donors and subscribers be now received.

IX. That the proceedings of the Conference be submitted to a public meeting, to be held this evening in the Subscription-rooms.

X. That the names of those nominated be printed, and forwarded by post to every member of the Conference; and from those returns the business committee to draw a list for the districts of five each to form a county committee.

XI. Thanks to the Chairman.

EVENING MEETING.

Report read.

I. That, feeling the importance of education, this meeting approves and confirms the resolutions of the Conference held this day, having for their object the advancement of education in the county, on the principles of the British and Foreign School Society.

II. That to create a fund to be employed in accordance with the 5th resolution of Conference, subscriptions and donations be solicited from all persons friendly to the object.

III. Thanks to the Chairman.

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